



TIPTON TIMES

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APRIL
& MAY 2024

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*Hay and Presto from National
Treasure*

Shân Merritt

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

Editorial

Welcome to the April/May edition of Tipton Times.

First of all, many congratulations to TIPPS on their recent, hugely successful production of their original play *National Treasure*. It's great to read about the plaudits the company has received in Yvonne Kellett's article on page 4 as well as the wider recognition TIPPS has received in terms of awards and nominations.

We've also featured the cricket club's 50th anniversary on page 5. You can read there some of the exciting events due to take place this season. You will also note that, through any funds it raises, the club will be supporting the Playing Field Association's project to redevelop the pavilion.

In our last edition we welcomed the news that the rebuilding of our primary school has been approved by the Department of Education. We expressed the hope that the planning and consultation stage would be open and transparent, so it's very disappointing to hear from Jess Bailey on page 22 and Ottery Town Council on page 24 that, so far, this has not been the case. In particular, the negative response to the town council's Freedom of Information request to have sight of the report which details potential sites within Tipton St John for a new school is very concerning.

We would like to add our appreciation to two members of our community who have made significant contributions in their different ways: Rita Sandell who is retiring as church organist after 43 years and Shân Merritt, who is stepping down as chair of VOSRA, as she is moving to Sidmouth. Our thanks and best wishes to you both!

The Editors

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TIPPS

Thank you to all our loyal supporters who came to see National Treasure in February. I think everyone enjoyed it, not least the cast, and it was fantastic to have so many of our

members taking part, with age no barrier!

Many of you will have seen the wonderful review by 'Tricia Barclay in the Sidmouth Herald, accompanied by photos courtesy of Shan Merritt - a whole page to ourselves!

A representative called Katie Jones came to do the official review for NODA, the national organisation to which we belong and she too wrote a very complimentary critique.

Talking of NODA (the National Operatic and Dramatic Association) we have recently heard that we have won the Achievement Award for our district for 2023.

We have also been nominated for the 'Company Crafted Award' for the juniors' version of Snow White last October. We will find out if we have won that at the NODA South West awards evening in May. NODA issues a quarterly magazine and we featured twice in the most recent edition, with 'Tricia's review of Snow White and an article she wrote about our AGM last year, describing how to encourage attendance. We made it into a more social event with a bring and share supper and also provided entertainment with some rehearsed play readings.

A toast to The National Treasure



I wrote in the last Tipton Times that we are proposing to hold a workshop open day. We are still proposing to do so but, instead of May, it is now going to be held in June - more details will be in the next issue of TT.

Besides planning our workshop day, we are also in the process of looking for a play (or plays) to put on in our usual October slot. More of both next time.

Yvonne Kellett

Tipton Ladies Group Coffee Morning in aid of Children's Hospice South West

We provide care for children who are not expected to survive into adulthood, as well as essential support for the whole family, including respite, emergency, palliative and end of life care. From diagnosis through to bereavement and beyond, we are there for as long as the family needs us. We operate three hospices: Little Bridge House in North Devon, Charlton Farm in North Somerset and Little Harbour in Cornwall.

Our services are free to families who need us because we believe that nothing should get in the way of very sick children and young people receiving the very best care. So, with little government funding, we rely on the generosity of our supporters to deliver our promise to 'make the most of short and precious lives across the South West'.

On average, children's hospices in the UK receive 17% of their funding from the Government, less than a fifth of their expenditure. It costs just under £12 million to run the 3 hospices each year and we rely almost entirely on voluntary contributions. We provide care for over 550 families in the South West.

As you see, this is such a worthwhile cause dependent largely on donations. Last year, we raised £368 for Marie Curie so we hope you will support us this year to do as well. **See advert on the back cover.**

If you are unable to come on 13th April you can still donate either via any committee member or at <https://www.chsw.org.uk/donate>.

Ann Knight



Celebrating 50 Years of Cricket and Supporting the Pavilion Redevelopment

A (very) brief history.

On May 8th 1974 a meeting was held with a view to reforming Tipton St John CC. Some cricket had been played between the establishing of the Playing Field in 1967 and 1973, but records are few and far between.

From the beginning, the club set out to play friendly matches only. In these 50 years we have attracted a wide range of cricketing abilities and experience and continue to do so, with 51 players representing the club last season. We have built up a strong fixture list over the years, regularly playing over 40 matches a season.



What is planned for the 2024 season?

We are pleased to announce some events which we hope will attract a lot of support and interest. On **Saturday 4th May, at 2.30pm**, we are delighted to host a match between the **Lord's Taverners and a Parliament XI**. The Lord's Taverners are usually well supported and often field former professional and celebrity players. The Parliamentary XI generally includes a number of former and current MPs. Admission will be free but donations will be very welcome!

The main focus of our celebrations will be on our **50th Anniversary Festival of Cricket** which will take place around the August Bank Holiday and feature the following:

Tipton St John v Incogniti, Thurs 22nd August

Tipton St John v Boffins, Sat 24th August

Softball Cricket Fun Match and BBQ, Sun 25th August

Tipton St John v Ascott-u-Wychwood, Tues 27th August

We look forward to welcoming back these touring sides, with whom we have a history of competitive and friendly cricket. Incogniti, founded in 1861, are one of the best-known nomadic clubs. Boffins are also a distinguished nomadic side, last visiting in 2015 as part of their annual Devon tour. Oxfordshire-based Ascott-under-Wychwood have been welcome regulars here since 2021.

Supporting the Playing Field Association's Pavilion Redevelopment Plans

We welcome the Playing Field Association's aim of redeveloping the pavilion. Any funds we raise this season will be divided between the PFA and cricket club. We are therefore launching the **Tipton St John CC 50th Anniversary Appeal** with two main fund-raising aims:



Watching cricket on a summer evening

- To support the PFA's pavilion redevelopment fund
- To update and overhaul our increasingly elderly and unreliable equipment and machinery

How can you support our anniversary appeal?

- Come and play cricket, either as a regular or occasional player. We are always on the lookout for new blood!
- Come along and support our matches
- Get an 8-a-side mixed age and gender team together for the community cricket fun day on 25th August. No experience necessary - this is just for fun!
- Consider offering sponsorship, either for a single match, or throughout the season.
- Sponsors are acknowledged on our fixture card and in our match reports and press releases.

Keep in touch with club fixtures, results and match reports, and updates to our anniversary events through our website: <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/tiptonstjohn/> **and Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057807483472>

Tipton Times will carry regular updates on our season and the pavilion redevelopment plans.

Email our Treasurer Phil Wright for details of sponsorship and donations: wright3@blueyonder.co.uk

David Birch, Chairman Tipton St John CC (07929 822940)



Nature Notes

Spring has sprung, although weather-wise you can be forgiven for not having noticed! The days are noticeably longer, and most of the seasonal flowers are now in bloom. The dawn chorus is also getting into the swing of things, with the blackbird being most prominent in the vocal department, heralding the early light. That will be, of course, until the clocks change and go forward to British Summer Time (or will that be Blackbird Silent Time, temporarily at least!).

It's been relatively busy with all the building going on just up the road from here. No, don't panic, it's not human habitation! The rooks in the oak tree have been building, and rebuilding, their nests ready for the next generation. Rooks are communal breeders, nesting in colonies known as rookeries. Nests are built high in the trees and made of twigs and branches. These are broken off trees or stolen from a nearby nest. Rooks normally build their nests in February or March, but

may start as early as January. Typically, three to four eggs will be laid in spring, hatching after around two weeks. Chicks will stay in the nest for just over a month before fledging. Rooks have all-black plumage but an iridescent sheen is noticeable when seen up close. They are slightly smaller than crows, with a typical wingspan of 90cm. The species' key identifying feature is the grey-white skin at the base of its long, pointed beak. This distinguishes it from the similar-looking carrion crow, which has an all-black beak. Worms, beetles and other invertebrates are the rook's main food, which it catches by probing the ground with its large beak. It will also feed on grain, fruit, acorns and occasionally carrion and birds' eggs. Rooks demonstrate considerable intelligence and this can be observed at garden feeding situations. For example, they have been observed to manipulate hanging feeders in order to get at food, with this including pulling feeders up towards them when the feeder is hanging by string. They unhook feeders from feeding stations and branches, drop them on the ground, then gather the seed. The species is also relatively sociable and not just with other rooks, but regularly feeds in mixed flocks with jackdaws and starlings.

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, which can come fully furnished with some bedding. If not you'll see them carrying bits of dry moss and grass down into the hole.

According to my records of 10 years ago, house martins were spotted on these shores during the first week of



March. This is very early for these summer visitors to arrive. They were sighted in North Devon and around Roadford Lake, so keep your eyes peeled. Swallows and the summer may not be long in arriving either, although we should enjoy all that the spring has to offer first!

The slow-worm mating season starts in April, and a good time to spot them is as they spend long periods just basking in the sunshine. Slow worms, or blind worms as they are sometimes called, look a lot like snakes but, in fact, they are legless lizards. The body is almost the same thickness from head to tail, with the tip of the tail being blunt. Slow worms are covered in tiny scales which give them a metallic appearance.

The males are usually brown with a copper or pink

flush. Female slow worms and juveniles are a more golden colour, with a dark line running along the back. Some slow worms have faint blue markings along their body.



Finally, for all you foragers out there, one of the first plants to appear in the season are ramsons, or wild garlic. In my perambulations, I have already seen a lot of leaves which are about ready for harvest. This bulb is a species of wild onion. The whole plant smells very strongly of onions. The leaves are edible, but have a very strong flavour. Ramsons usually grow in large clusters. The pointed leaves feel leathery and are about 20cm long. When the flowers first shoot up on their long slender stems, they are enclosed in a papery case. When this falls away it reveals the beautiful pom-pom flower heads of around twenty, white star-shaped flowers.

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

gjpinn@tiscali.co.uk

Geoff Pinn

Tipton St John Playing Field

Spring is in the air (finally!). Days are longer and warmer and the Playing Field is starting to come back to life after a quiet winter.

With the spring, the maintenance jobs come thick and fast. Our first volunteer weekend is on **Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th April** - please come along and get involved. Apart from the usual clearing and weeding, we intend to repaint the outside of the pavilion, so come equipped with paint brushes! Refreshments will be available. Over the summer, we are planning to meet up on the first Sunday of the month along with the Eager Beavers. We still have lots to do so if anyone would like to assist in any area please come along on Sunday mornings.



Hopefully you will soon see the progress that has been made so far with a new pathway and a football goal for the use of everyone.

We have a lot planned this year alongside the Cricket Club's 50th celebrations (see page 5 for all their dates and events). We are also organising a Tipton fun weekend which is going to be held on **Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July**. Saturday 13th July will be the Otter Rail and River Run followed by a fun event for all. And in the evening there will be live music, pop up bar and a BBQ. On Sunday 14th July we are planning a traditional village fun day. More will be announced over the coming weeks so please all get involved. Funds raised will go the redevelopment of the pavilion.

Regarding the Rail and River Run, unfortunately, after many fantastic and successful years, Gemma and Mo have decided to step away from organising the event. I would like to thank them both for all the hard work and dedication they have put in over the years in truly making it a community event. This now leads me on to asking would anyone like to take on the challenge of organising the event as it would be a shame to lose it. If you are interested please email me at the address below.

Kindest Regards

Mark Rigden PFA Chairman rigden58@btinternet.com

Many people have wondered recently why there is an outflow of water on the Playing Field on the mound, just to the north-west of the cricket square. Research, courtesy of Mike Leworthy, has shown that it is in fact the site of an old well: the reason for the outflow is simply the volume of rain we've experienced this winter. It should eventually subside as the weather becomes drier and the structure at the top of the well can be investigated. Meanwhile, the area has been fenced off.

The image on the right, on which the well is indicated by the triangle in the top centre of the picture, is taken from the British Geological Survey website on which more wells and boreholes can be found locally: <https://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html>.





Tipton Ladies' February Talk, *Treating Mental Health Issues Through The Ages* was given by Chris Brougham, who has spent her working life in the field of mental health care.

It was a thought-provoking description of the various methods used to treat all types of mental illness, from mild disorders to much more serious ones.

Chris explained to us how knowledge of the subject and the treatments used had advanced over the years, taking us right back to the time of Hippocrates, a physician in ancient Greece, who believed that the gods were to blame for depression. In the Middle Ages, women showing signs of mental disorders were feared as they were thought to be possessed by evil spirits, and many of them were labelled as witches.

No cures or treatments were attempted until around 1800, when huge asylums began to be built. The earlier ones were very unpleasant places to spend your days, where people often lived in filthy conditions with no access to hot water - and many were shackled to prevent them harming themselves or others.

From about 1845 advances in care and treatment began to be made, and straitjackets were invented in 1900. From about that time the Austrian psychologist Sigmund Freud began to develop talking therapy, followed by the introduction of electro-convulsive therapy and the development of various drug treatments.

In about 1980 the large asylums were closed down and replaced by smaller institutions, and today the emphasis is on 'care in the community' with a wide range of treatments being used. The downside is a shortage of residential places for those who need them which, in a few cases, has resulted in very serious consequences.

Although this is clearly a huge subject to summarise, we were very grateful to Chris for her insights and for sharing her knowledge with us.

Linda Smith



Pinnacle Icing kindly came to our March meeting and the very talented Jenny talked to us about how she developed her skills and business to what it is today. After attending catering college Jenny decided that she wanted to bring joy and pleasure to people by providing cakes for their most special occasions.

Jenny then found her passion in Royal Icing and, after seeing a niche in the market, started making and decorating very special biscuits.

We watched intently as Jenny demonstrated the stages of creating the perfect pooch and it became clear that, whilst Jenny made it look easy, it would not be something we could recreate!

Here are some little trade secrets to help us at home:

Tip 1 cover your bowl of icing with a damp cloth whilst you aren't using it to stop it drying out.

Tip 2 cover the tips of your piping bag with a damp cloth whilst you are not using them to prevent dried blobs.

Tip 3 whilst it is tempting to use a larger nozzle to get coverage quicker, a smaller hole in your piping bag will prevent air bubbles.

Of course Jenny is supported behind the scenes by Geoff who organises logistics, manages the website and washes up!

You can find Jenny and Geoff at various local festivals, including Honiton Gate to Plate, Ottery Food Festival, Budleigh Salterton Food and Craft Market and Kozfest.

Thank you Jenny and Geoff for taking the time to come and speak to us!

Eleanor Kinson



CHURCH NEWS

CAFÉ CHURCH

Café Church returned on 17th March, Passion Sunday - and so we picked up that theme, recognising that the word “passion”, as well as meaning “ardent love for someone or something, great enthusiasm” also meant “pain and suffering”. In the context of Jesus we realised that both senses of the word applied - by suffering for us on the cross he demonstrated God’s limitless love for all mankind. Our next Café Church will be on 21st April when we’ll be thinking about Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The children, or indeed the adults, might like to come along dressed as a shepherd or bring along a toy sheep. We meet in the Community Hall starting at our usual time of 10.30am for coffee, pastries and chat with a short time of worship starting around 11am. There’ll be something for all ages to enjoy. Please note that there won’t be a Café Church in May because of the ...

OTTER VALE MISSION COMMUNITY JOINT SERVICE

On 19th May, all the churches in the Otter Vale Mission Community will be joining together at Ottery St Mary parish church at 10.30am for a family communion service suitable for all ages, so it will be just as much fun as Café Church but with lots more people to enjoy it with! In case you don’t know our Mission Community comprises the following ten parishes: Alfington, Colaton Raleigh, Feniton with Escot, Harpford, Newton Poppleford, Ottery St Mary, Payhembury, Tipton St John with Venn Ottery, West Hill & Wiggaton. The Mission Community is led by our Rector, Lydia, based at Ottery St Mary, our own vicar Mark, who lives in West Hill, and David Carrington, who lives in Feniton. So come along and meet people from right across the Otter Valley. If you would like to come but don’t have transport just give me a call and I’ll organise a lift for you.

PRAYER MEETING - THY KINGDOM COME

Each year in May we hold a church prayer meeting under the banner ‘Thy Kingdom Come’. All around the world churches will be gathering to pray between Ascension (9th May) and Pentecost (19th May) that God’s kingdom might be seen in our world today. At Tipton, Mark will be leading us in church for an hour of prayer starting at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th May. Whichever church you normally attend you are welcome to come and join us as part of this global prayer initiative. We will be specifically including prayer for our school community on this occasion as they await final confirmation of the new school site.

We also support and encourage prayer throughout the year by providing a monthly prayer page with pointers for prayer covering local, national and global issues. You can find this on our Mission Community website at: ottervalechurches.org/churches/tipton-st-john-church/tipton-st-john-prayer-diary/.

HOMEGROUP

Our weekly homegroup will restart on Thursday 11th April, when we will begin a bible study series focussing on some of the great readings from the prophet Isaiah. We frequently find passages from Isaiah quoted in the New Testament, including by Jesus himself, so this series will help us make the connection between the Old and New Testaments. This series will run throughout April and May (apart from the 9th when we’ll be praying Thy Kingdom Come). We meet on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm at our house, St Mary’s, Hayne Close. All are welcome to come and join us.

ONLINE CHURCH

One of the few benefits of the pandemic was the development of an online church service which Caroline Poultney and I have the pleasure of leading. We meet on Zoom on the first and third Sundays of each month (special occasions aside - see the Mission Community service above) and from 7th April we will have a new start time of 9.30am. The link to join us can be found on the homepage of the Mission Community website on the day of the service (ottervalechurches.org/) and again all are welcome to come and join us, but especially those who struggle to get to our church buildings. We have become a wonderful online community, building new friendships with folk across several of the Otter Vale parishes and this is one church where there is always room for more people!

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

On the evening of Monday 15th April we will be holding our Annual Church Meeting when we will be reviewing what we have been doing throughout 2023 and electing church wardens, deanery synod representatives and members of the Parochial Church Council. A copy of our 2023 annual report and accounts will shortly be published on our website at ottervalechurches.org/churches/tipton-st-john-church/tsj-documents/ but if you want to find out more about who we are and what we do then do please come and join us at 7.30pm in the Community Hall (small hall)

KEEP UP TO DATE

Don’t forget that Tipton & Venn Ottery churches’ weekly notice sheet can be found on our Mission Community website at ottervalechurches.org/churches/tipton-st-john-church/tipton-st-john-and-venn-ottery-notice/

David Williamson

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Licensed Lay Minister, Tipton Church

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Tipton Church Organist Retires

On 24th March a gathering took place at Tipton Church to mark a notable event - the retirement after over 50 years' service of our organist Rita Sandell.

This was a chance for our vicar, Mark Ward, and our congregation and other friends to thank Rita for the wonderful contribution she had made to our Church over so many years, both as our organist and as director of our choir.

When Rita, then Rita Jones, moved to Tipton in 1968, she was already an experienced organist, having been introduced to the instrument as a child by her mother in the village of Ightham (near Sevenoaks) in Kent where, at the age of 12, she played the organ for her Sunday School at Ightham Church. A gifted musician, Rita successfully completed an organ and piano course at the Royal Academy in the early 1950s and then continued playing the organ at Plaxtol Church (also near Sevenoaks) before marrying her first husband in 1955 and moving to Impington near Cambridge, from where she moved to Tipton with her family. Her children attended Tipton School, where Rita was a teacher for some 16 years, and she married her second husband in 1991 after retiring from teaching. Rita became our full-time organist at Tipton Church in 1971.



Although she has now taken her well-earned retirement as our organist, Rita remains a much-loved member of our congregation at Tipton Church and of course, a long-standing and popular resident of our village.



Mike Smith, Tipton with Venn Ottery PCC

What Spring Means To Me ... (A letter in verse to the editors)

A biting wind assails my unclothed limbs,
a keening cry among the boughs of nearby trees,
and then, but a susurrations as if tired of mischievous play.

The earth beneath me, damp from last night's rain,
industrious gossamer strands dance between optimistic verdant shoots each bedecked by jewels of water.

Gazing into the valley below me, a large bird rises majestically on an unseen column of air swept aloft as if in divine supplication.

Languorously I stretch my tired frame entreating for those tantalising caresses of the rising sun that will banish the chill from my bones.

Long have I waited quietly, expectantly for this moment, I feel awakened, alive, reborn as dormant buds expectantly await their chance.

The heavy cloak of doubt and dread slips silently from my shoulders as I stand emboldened by hope and expectation.

In euphoric wonder I shudder waiting for my leaves to grow again and this wheel of the year turns yet again.



Original poem by
Clinton Johnston
aka The Tea Junction

Thought for the Times

"Every cloud has a silver lining" is one of those statements which may hit the right tone but might come across as trite or even insensitive. If you are going through tough times, you may be tempted to poke the eye or biff the nose of anyone telling you that every cloud has a silver lining.

I am not going to say that, but at risk of facial injury, I do want to offer you the picture of a rainbow. Silver-lined clouds and rainbows both need clouds and sunshine, but the silver-lined clouds still hide the sun whereas the rainbow appears when the sun and clouds are both in view.

The other important difference from my point of view is that the rainbow is a biblical image (I cannot think of anywhere in the Bible that mentions clouds with silver linings, but if you know different, please let me know). The rainbow is borrowed by many people and organisations, but in the first book of the Bible, Genesis, God puts a rainbow in the sky for Noah and his family when they come out of the ark after the flood.

The flood in Genesis is a picture of creation itself being put into reverse. The flood works as a symbol for everything we know being destroyed or taken away or turned upside down. A flood is literally overwhelming, and for every one of us, the thing that will ultimately overwhelm us is our mortality, our death. But, when God put the rainbow in the sky, he told Noah and his family that this was a sign that never again would there be a flood like the one they had just been through. That did not mean that there would never be any floods - in the Otter Valley we know that there have been, and probably will be, too many floods. God's promise to Noah was that there would not be a flood that would destroy everything.

I always think that the rainbow is such an appropriate sign for those who have just been through a flood. If you have been through a flood, the thing most likely to raise your fears is the appearance of dark clouds. We all know from primary school science that the recipe for a rainbow is rain and sunlight. The rainbow appears when the sunlight shines into the very thing that threatens us and makes us afraid.

For many people, the thing that they are most afraid of, deep down, is dying. Our fears of cancer, heart disease and Covid are all symptoms of our fundamental fear of death. Even overwhelming emotions can be so powerful that, even though we know they are not life threatening, they feel as though they might destroy us. What if I as a created person become uncreated and cease to be? Some are so afraid of

death that they do not want to speak of it or mention it. Perhaps you are already annoyed with me for bringing such a morbid subject into your enjoyment of Tipton Times.

The rainbow is the picture of light shining into the dark clouds of which we are afraid.

At Easter Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. On the cross Jesus was destroyed - he was killed, he died. The gospel writers tell us that darkness covered the sky on that "Good" Friday. His lifeless corpse was placed into the darkness of a tomb with its entrance blocked by a large stone. But having been buried, he rose again, full of new life.

I love the lines in Stuart Townend's hymn 'In Christ alone' which say:

There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave he rose again.

It was as if a shaft of sunlight burst out of that empty tomb. And that light continues to shine today.

Jesus' resurrection has not instantly taken away all the dark clouds in the world; but if there are dark clouds in your life, things that stir your fears, I hope that you will let the light of Jesus' resurrection shine into those clouds. And next time you see a beautiful rainbow, I hope that it will remind you of Jesus' light and life.

Mark



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Friends of St John and St Gregory Club

1st	Pat Keeley (23)	£30
2nd	Andrew Sadler (93)	£20
3rd	Allen Marks (88)	£15



Pebblebed Heaths receives Heritage Fund grant

Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, the *Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust (PHCT)* will deliver an exciting project to make the Pebblebed Heaths NNR accessible for all.

More than £190,000 has been granted by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to help deliver the *Pebblebeds For All* project. The total value of the project exceeds £340,000, with a contribution from the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust of over £150,000.

Pebblebeds For All will provide resources to connect individuals, groups and businesses to the special qualities of the Pebblebed Heaths National Nature Reserve (NNR), enabling them to build and reaffirm, strong and meaningful relationships with the unique heritage, habitats and wildlife.

The award funds a new Community Engagement Ranger, who joins the team in April, to help provide new opportunities for anyone to take positive action for nature and a Countryside Ranger Apprentice, for someone keen to begin their conservation career.

The project will engage with under-represented groups, extend volunteering opportunities and establish a Youth Ranger Scheme. Additional resources will also be invested to create a culture of responsible enjoyment for all, so local people feel connected, confident and skilled to play their part to ensure the unique heritage is protected today and for the future.

The *Pebblebeds For All* project works on the well-established conservation premise that those who understand their local wildlife and habitats are much more likely to help protect them. The project will enhance understanding and skills, strengthening local pride in these nationally-important heath and wetland areas and underline the vital role The Pebblebed Heaths NNR plays in supporting the health, social and economic well-being of people across East Devon.

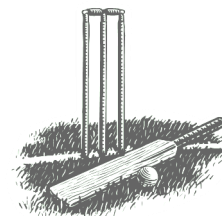
A great way to keep in touch with all the work of the *Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust* is to become a Friend of the Commons. Membership is **free** and you'll receive email updates direct to your inbox with news, information and events to get involved in both the Pebblebed Heaths and Otter Estuary, including the new *Pebblebeds For All* project. Visit www.pebblebedheaths.org.uk to learn more and sign up.



Kate Ponting, *Community Engagement and Countryside Learning*, Clinton Devon Estates
kate.ponting@clintondevon.com 01395 443 881

Tipton St John Cricket Club

As I mentioned in the last issue of Tipton Times, 2024 marks the fiftieth year of continuous cricket in Tipton St John. You can read in more detail on page 5 of this edition of our plans to celebrate this very significant landmark.



Our season begins in earnest with a home match against Newton Poppleford on **Sunday April 21st**. Before that there will be some opportunities for practice: we will arrange some net sessions on the field and there will be a practice match on **Sunday April 14th**. These will be excellent opportunities for any new players to come along and get to know us. With over 40 fixtures arranged until the end of September there is plenty of scope to play either occasionally or regularly.

Players of all abilities and levels of experience are very welcome: look out for details of the net practices which will be posted on our website, Facebook page and social media, details of which you can find at the bottom of the page.



Spectators are also very welcome: we have a loyal band of supporters who seem to appreciate the entertainment value on display if not the quality of the cricket. Our April and May fixtures are below.

In addition, on **Saturday 4th May at 2.30 pm** we are hosting a 20 over a side match between the Lord's Taverners and a Parliamentary XI. Proceeds from this match will go to the redevelopment of the pavilion.

April	Sunday	14th	Practice Match	Home	1pm
	Sunday	21st	Newton Poppleford	Home	1pm
	Tuesday	23rd	Met Office	Home	6pm
	Sunday	28th	Stokeinteignhead	Away	1pm
May	Wednesday	1st	Feniton	Home	6pm
	Sunday	5th	Ottery St Mary	Away	1pm
	Thursday	9th	Erratics	Home	6pm
	Sunday	12th	Marldon	Away	1pm
	Wednesday	15th	Broadclyst	Away	6pm
	Sunday	19th	Tedburn St Mary	Home	1pm
	Wednesday	22nd	Exwick Jokers	Away	6pm
	Sunday	26th	Broadclyst	Home	1pm
	Tuesday	28th	Tedburn St Mary	Away	6pm

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>

Community Hall

Another two enjoyable Quiz Nights have taken place since the last Tipton Times and our thanks go to Geoff & Sue Hulley and Robin & Jill Dixon for setting a wide range of interesting and challenging questions on both occasions. They were the last of the current season so there will now be the usual break until later in the year when the quizzes will return.

The Country and Western event held recently was a great success where nearly 60 people enjoyed listening to the *Lonesome Saddles* band and eating a tasty 2-course supper. The theme of the evening allowed the opportunity to dress appropriately plus a chance to showcase a varied assortment of dancing skills!

We have two more events coming up soon and you will find further details on the back cover of this issue:

Saturday 27th April - a fun afternoon of entertainment for children (aged 4 and above) starting at 2.30pm.

Sunday 12th May - a film night showing *Ticket to Paradise* starting at 7pm.

You should find a donation envelope inside this TT for our annual collection which forms our main fundraising effort of the year to enable us to keep the premises in good condition and make improvements when funds allow, e.g. we are having the main hall redecorated this year during the school's Easter holiday.

Please hand your completed envelope to one of our collectors who will be making house-to-house calls during April or leave it with Alita in the village store. If you are eligible to Gift Aid your donation, please fill in your full details on the envelope label before handing it over otherwise we will not be able to include it in our application to HMRC.

If you would prefer to donate by BACS, please include your own name as a reference and use the following details:

Account name - Tipton St John Community Hall Trust

Sort code 30-94-36

Account no. 01299719

Thank you for your support which is much appreciated. We are in need of two or three more envelope collectors so if you could help us, please contact Brian Rice (tel. 811396 or email: rice196@btinternet.com) who will be pleased to hear from you.

John Belton

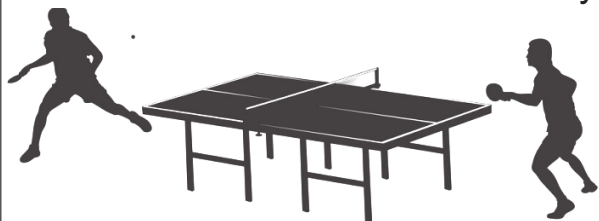
tel. 01404 813431 or email thebeltons@talk21.com



Sundial Care Home surprised their beloved Home Manager, Elizabeth (Liz) Thompson, with a heartwarming birthday celebration. The team decided to combine the charm of Valentine's Day with an Alice in Wonderland theme, creating a vibrant atmosphere in the care home in Tipton St John. Liz Thompson, a cornerstone of Sundial Care Home for over two decades, was genuinely moved as she entered a transformed communal area filled with cheers, applause and embraces from colleagues, loved ones and residents - who the home fondly refer to as family members. The surprise party not only celebrated Liz's 60th birthday but the remarkable dedication and impact she has had on those living and working at the home. Liz finished with, "There have been many changes over the years and each year I feel we put those we care for centre stage, exploring the best care we can offer for each person, celebrating their lives and empowering those who are able to live their best life".

Table Tennis in the Community Hall

on Mondays starting at 7.30pm



April 8th and 22nd

May 13th and 27th

VENN OTTERY & SOUTHERTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

FLOOD ALLEVIATION PROJECT

I am delighted to tell you the latest news from Devon County Council about flood alleviation in Venn Ottery. Since the flooding of 9th May 2023 we have had a number of meetings and other discussions with the Flood Risk Alleviation Team, and they have worked with the Environment Agency to put together a bid to Government for funding of flood alleviation in the River Otter Catchment area - which of course includes Venn Ottery. Simon Jupp supported Venn Ottery and the EA bid, and it was successful, so the EA has been awarded £1.2M for this work.

Quoting a couple of points from Simon's email of 26/2/24:

"This application comprises a package of eight projects within the River Otter catchment."

"I understand there will be projects in Newton Poppleford, Harpford, Feniton & Gosford, Tipton St John, **Venn Ottery**, Colaton Raleigh, East Budleigh, and along the Furze Brook tributary on the outskirts of Ottery St Mary."

The follow-up is that on 13/3/24 DCC's Cabinet met, and within their agenda they approved the funding of the Flood Risk Action Plan which includes £50K from DCC and a further £100K from 'other external sources'. I understand from the Head of the FLM team that they are in negotiations with the EA for the additional £100K. If all goes according to plan, they expect to be on site at Venn Ottery this summer!

AGM AND ELECTION OF VOSRA COMMITTEE

The main business of the AGM was to elect the VOSRA Committee for the coming year. I have resigned from the role of Chairman. There were no nominations for the officer jobs but the existing committee members were willing to continue. Fortunately, there was one fairly recent resident interested in helping with organising future social activities; the lineup for the year thus becomes:

Chairman	-	Andy Finch
Vice Chairman	-	Chris Cole
Treasurer	-	Jan Alden
Secretary	-	Denise Wightman
Social	-	Adrian Priest

A FOND FAREWELL

As Dan and I are moving I'm bidding a farewell to VOSRA and our lovely community. It has been an honour to live among and get to know the wonderful people who live in Venn Ottery and Southerton, and especially those who have helped VOSRA become a body that has influenced the councils and other agencies over the last 25 years.

And a special thank you! I was taken completely by surprise when I was presented with a lovely gift of jewellery as a parting gift! This is so unexpected but very much appreciated.

THANK YOU ALL,

Shân Merritt - Ex-Chairman, VOSRA



Don't let anything stand between you and supporting your local hospice. Be a Hospiscare Hero, take on a challenge this year and help raise vital funds to support end-of-life care across Exeter, central and east Devon.

Great West Run 2024

Join Team Hospiscare and take on Exeter's Great West Run - an exciting half marathon through the heart of Devon's capital - on **Sunday 26th May**. The 13.1 mile run is the only half marathon in Exeter where you can run the closed roads. Individuals from far and wide participate and Hospiscare is on a mission to get local people running the local half marathon to support your local hospice. When you sign up you will get a race space, running vest, sponsorship form and fundraising hints and tips.

Exeter Inflatable 5K

Put the fun in fundraising and take on an inflatable challenge - the world's largest Inflatable 5k obstacle course comes to Exeter on **Saturday 27 April 2024** with four different distances - 2.5K, 5K, 10K, 15K - to choose from!

Hospiscare Skydive 2024

Fancy an adrenaline-filled morning of skydives, all in aid of Hospiscare? Whether you're jumping in memory of someone special or to fulfil a bucket list challenge, support your local hospice and sign up in 2024. We have special Hospiscare Skydive days on Sunday 12 May, Wednesday 24 July and Saturday 7 September. But if you can't make any of those dates, you could book a day that suits you.

For more information visit www.hospiscare.co.uk/challenges or email events@hospiscare.co.uk.

Eleni Greenwood

TIPTON ST JOHN PRIMARY SCHOOL



Naomi Garrick, a teacher of the pre-school and reception children at Tipton St John Primary, has set herself a challenge of running four tough runs dressed up as a Dalmatian.

She is running for International Animal Rescue in memory of her mother, who devoted her life to animals. Two runs, The 4 Trigs and the Brighton half marathon have already been completed and the next two are the twenty mile Grizzly and the twenty-two mile Exe to Axe, in costume. She has set herself a target of raising £1000 by running and collecting on the sea front and is almost there!

Naomi's class were so keen to help support her they did a run at Tipton Fields, all dressed up as animals. They managed to raise over £160 and featured in the Sidmouth Herald. The run was

extra special as Jo Pavey, the five-time Olympian joined them, dressed up in a tiger outfit.

If anyone would kindly like to donate to this amazing charity which rescues animals from suffering and protects precious habitats, it would be most appreciated. Please put Naomi Garrick in the search box on Just Giving or contact the school.



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

A letter in verse to the editors

I came to live in Tipton 18 months ago
Where I knew the pace of life would be a little slow
Residents so friendly and always have a smile
Have time to stop and have a chat for a little while.

There is of course our local church where Sarah Ireland lays
She started up our local school in those bygone days
Where children walk to happily each school day of the year
But looking from my window my heart just fills with fear.

The lane is very narrow and cars fly past at speed
Mums with children off to school they do not seem to heed
So why can't we be like West Hill and have the speed to twenty
As 30, 40, 50 plus is so unnecessary.

So those that tick that certain box to ensure that cars slow down
This is a country village lane not a built up
noisy town
So come and sit upon my bench and then
you all will see
That 20mph is the speed that it should be.

Jenny McDonnell



Recipe Corner

LOBSCOUSE

Serves 6

This recipe comes from Graham Kerr's (the former Galloping Gourmet ... remember him!) 'Smart Cooking' book released in 1991.

Lobsouse originated in the 18th century, when it meant a sailors' meal of meat stewed with vegetables and hard tack biscuits. This recipe is a wonderful, rib-sticking meal that gets cooked all in one pot! Enjoy!

Ingredients

1 tbsp. / 15ml extra light olive oil with a dash of sesame oil
12 oz. / 340g lean pork shoulder cut into ½ inch / 1.5 cm slices
1 large onion, peeled and diced
2 carrots, peeled and sliced
1 ½ pounds / 680g potatoes, peeled and diced into 1 inch / 2.5 cm cubes
1 tbsp. / 15 ml fresh mint, chopped
1 tbsp. / 15 ml fresh thyme, chopped
½ tsp. / 2.5 ml salt
4 fl oz. / 113 ml yellow split peas
4 fl oz. / 113 ml green split peas
1 ¼ pints / 680 ml chicken stock
3 bay leaves
½ tsp. / 2.5 ml black pepper
8 fl oz. / 227 ml celery leaves

Method

In a flameproof casserole dish, heat the oil and fry the pork until browned.

Scatter the onion over the pork; do not stir. This allows the pork to continue to brown on the bottom of the pot and the onion to steam.

Add the carrots and potatoes on top of the onion. Sprinkle in the mint, thyme and salt. Add the yellow and green peas and mix thoroughly, scraping the residue off the bottom of the pan.

Pour in the stock, push the bay leaves under the surface and add pepper to taste. Bring to the boil, cover and simmer for 90 minutes.

Garnish with the celery leaves.

Jenny Pinn

Tipton Tennis Club

The days are lengthening and Tipton Tennis Club is gearing up for the new season.

Memberships are due from 1st April so members please go to the website and renew ... and for non-members, there couldn't be a better time to join!

Membership provides unlimited use of the courts, including floodlights when needed, booked through our online booking system.

Membership Rates for this year are **£80 adults, £40 juniors and students** or **£180 family**. BACS payment rates (slightly higher rates apply for card payments.)

Prospective members are always welcome to come to **Club Night from 6pm on Wednesday evenings** to give us a try; ladies are also welcome at the **Tuesday morning ladies session from 10am**. Up to three sessions free before joining.

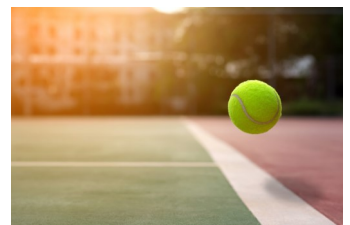
For membership details and joining instructions, visit <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/TiptonStJohnTennisClub>

Teams: As usual we have entered two men's and one ladies' teams in the summer leagues for friendly competitive tennis. More team players, men and ladies, are always welcome so if you are interested in playing for one of the teams, do please get in touch at tiptontennisclub@gmail.com

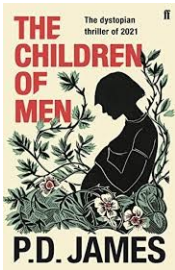
Coaching: We have two club coaches who both offer individual or small group coaching. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer regular junior coaching at the moment but hope to reintroduce this in the future when we can. Again, if you would like to arrange coaching please contact Eddy Kerr edward.kerr14@yahoo.co.uk or use the club email.

We look forward to seeing you on court.

Ken Mylne - Chair tiptontennisclub@gmail.com



Tipton Readers



The Children of Men by P D James

Written by P D James this is quite different to her murder mystery novels featuring Adam Dalgleish. She was an incredibly gifted lady who wrote many novels, gained many awards, had lots of careers despite a difficult life and became a life peer of the realm in 1991.



The story starts on Jan 1st 2021 with Oxford historian Theodore Faron, on his 50th birthday, starting to write a diary. The world has been stricken by a mass infertility crisis and the last child to have been born in the world in 1995 has been murdered. The children of 1995 are known as Omegas: they are “god-like”, beautiful, cruel, forming gangs to terrorize others. The whole world has tried to find the cause of the infertility and everyone so far has failed. Societies are collapsing.

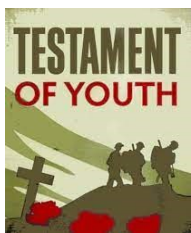
The UK has a warden, Xan Lyppiatt, who along with his three counsellors and the State Security Police (SSP) rule the country. There is relative peace where there is a focus on relaxation, adult education, maintaining services BUT there are disturbing factors like the Sojourners who are immigrants (treated badly) who do the menial tasks. All prisoners are transported to the Isle of Man where conditions are horrific and the Quietus which is voluntary euthanasia ... or is it?

Theo is approached by a young woman, Julian, who has previously attended his lectures. She requests he meet a group of people who wish to present their concerns about the country to the warden. Theo meets Julian, Rolf (Julian's husband), Miriam (a former midwife), Luke (a priest) and Gascoigne (a lorry driver) to hear their case. He has been approached by the group because he is Xan's cousin, previously his advisor and they spent holidays together in their childhood. He agrees to see the warden having attended a Quietus and observing that not all participants were volunteers. He meets Xan, who is now wearing the coronation ring, but the meeting only alerts the authorities to the group.

Gascoigne is arrested and the group, including Theo, run. They reveal that Julian is pregnant, Theo advises telling the warden but they just want to escape until the birth. During their journey they are attacked by Omegas and Luke is killed. It is revealed that Luke is the father and Rolf abandons the group and reports the news to the warden. Theo, Miriam and Jules find a secluded “shed” where a baby boy is born, Xan and the SSP arrive and I'll leave you to find out what happens next.

This is a story of despair, despondency, power struggle and maybe hope! It was a marmite book with some finding it too dark and depressing and others enjoying and even seeing hope. The overall score was 6, so not too encouraging but in my view well worth the read.

Jenny Parkin



Testament of Youth by Vera Brittain

Where to begin a 'write up' of this hefty tome which we read in January and discussed in February? I chose this book mainly because being a 'semi classic' favourite of my mother's which I had never read, I felt maybe I should. I can quite see why it resonated with her as the writer was virtually the same age with similar experience of having school contemporaries volunteering for the WW1 forces and subsequently being killed.

This beautifully written book is autobiographical and the major, and to me most compelling, part was compiled from the author's diaries. She was the daughter of a wealthy paper mill owner living first in Macclesfield then Buxton. Well educated at a boarding school, she was not expected to continue her studies at university, unlike her younger brother and great companion, Edward. Instead, she was expected to remain at home and look for a suitable husband. Vera was an exceptionally intelligent girl and eventually persuaded her father to let her take up the Oxford scholarship she has won. She only spent a year there though as she decided to train as a nurse with the hope of following her brother and his friends to France. She and one of the friends, Roland Leighton, had fallen in love and become engaged although they had actually seen little of each other, and their romance was conducted mainly through letters. Sadly he, Edward and both their close friends were all killed.

Vera's experiences first in Buxton, then London and Malta before she finally got to France are described in detail. Working conditions were harsh and horrific, highlighting the expectations of women and their position in society a hundred years ago most vividly. Difficult now to imagine the expectation that a twenty year old should give up nursing wounded soldiers at the front to return home to support her parents through her mother's apparent nervous breakdown over the servant shortage, particularly as her father was still well and able.

The last part of the book covers her return to Oxford, her meeting with Winifred Holtby, who also became a prolific writer and her work with the start of The League of Nations, forerunner of the United Nations - all interesting, educational stuff. There is brief mention of her husband who she met in 1925 and with whom she had two children. She didn't get on well with her artist son, John and her daughter, Shirley Williams, born in 1930, subsequently became a Labour Cabinet Minister, then a Liberal Democrat Peer.' Testament of Youth' was published in 1933, well after most of the events described in it.

Shirley Williams recalls being brought up with the sound of her mother's typewriter tapping away seven hours a day and her father thinking of his rival being the ghost of Vera's first love. Vera Brittain was a prolific writer and campaigner especially in the cause of feminism, pacifism and nuclear disarmament. She lectured throughout the country on these subjects sadly injuring herself in a fall on the way to one in 1966. Although she recovered physically her mental state deteriorated from then and she died in 1970.

It was quite a relief to me that the group really enjoyed the book, giving it a score of 8.8 with only three sevens, the rest being nines and one ten. Mum judged well!

Ann Knight

Letter to the Editors

Originally published in the Sidmouth Herald but reprinted with the writer's permission

Rights of way between Ottery and Tipton St John

I was alarmed to learn recently from the Sidmouth Herald that the footpath between Tipton St John and Ottery St Mary may soon be closed due to the rapid erosion of the river bank in one part of the route. This I know is a very popular path for residents of both settlements and for many others in the local area. Personally, I frequently walk this route, often as part of longer local walks.

I am raising this with you as I feel that it illustrates not only local concerns but wider, national issues. Right of Way 46 running along the eastern side of the River Otter has been closed off at one point for over 20 years. It is my understanding that the land owner has been reluctant to cooperate with the re-establishment of this route. If Right of Way 24 is to be closed soon, again due to river erosion, there will be a situation where connectivity is lost completely. This is critical in my view. Off-road links between all reasonable sized settlements should be a priority and be maintained at all cost. Historically, we have such a wonderful network of Rights of Way precisely because in the past this is how we moved about.

It is my view that more responsibilities should fall on land owners to maintain Rights of Way across their land and it should not be the public purse that is called upon every time there is a cliff fall or a river bank collapse. Rights of Way should be enshrined in law as links between place A and place B not a specific piece of land. Also, the status of Rights of Way should differ when they cross economic space (farmland, estates, industry etc.) compared to living space (residential).

The local issue along the Otter I feel perfectly illustrates an issue of national importance. Climate change is only going to make this more pressing. As a nation we need urgently to review Rights of Way. In terms of the local concerns, I am a passionate advocate of the Otter Trail, exploiting the old railway line. Surely the potential loss of path 24 only amplifies the need for urgent action.

Yours sincerely

Roger White

Editor's note: *The writer here echoes views that have been frequently expressed locally of late and many readers would be concerned if this well-used and much loved footpath should ever be closed. It is worth noting, however, that the landowner has recently moved the fence further from the river-bank, making access easier, at least for the time being. See also Cllr Jess Bailey's article on page 22.*



Garden News

I'm hoping to visit some more gardens as we progress through the spring into summer but on a gloomy rainy day what is there to write about? The answer is Celandines! I have a feeling they may be a bit of a marmite of the plant world and as I started research I found the US do indeed regard the plant as an invasive species. It should not be planted as it poses a threat to native species of wild flower. Here there is no such ruling but I know a few gardeners who are keen to weed them out of their borders.



Here at Dolberries they grow anywhere and everywhere and mostly that is because I have some very moist places which they like - and also I love them. Yes, they appear in all sorts of places but you can easily dig them up to plant something else and they will always appear again somewhere next year. They sparkle away in early spring and then completely disappear by May. What's not to like?

Wordsworth apparently liked them more than daffodils for their 'glittering countenance' and welcomed them along with swallows as the harbingers of spring. Apparently the 21st February is the date they should both arrive and interestingly Celandine is the anglicised form of chelidon, the Greek for swallow. He asked for a Celandine to be engraved on his tombstone he liked them so much but unfortunately the wrong celandine was put on. It was the Greater Celandine. The Greater Celandine belongs to the Poppy family but it was the Lesser Celandine that he (and I) particularly like and that is part of the Ranunculus (or buttercup) family. The greater version flowers later on in May.

It would appear that, as with many wildflowers, it has medicinal and herbal properties but, at the same time, some parts can be considered toxic. I therefore hesitate to give any advice in case I get it wrong. Instead of ingesting them I like to do what my friend does and count the petals. This might sound strange but they don't always have the same number - there are generally between seven and twelve and this is where the fun begins. She has found one with fifteen petals so I regard that as a challenge so every walk is punctuated with stops where we count a few flower heads. It's a bit like looking for a four-leaf clover which I have done only once.

You could let me know if you find any 'fifteeners' or more? Enjoy your garden when the weather allows.

Alison Stevens



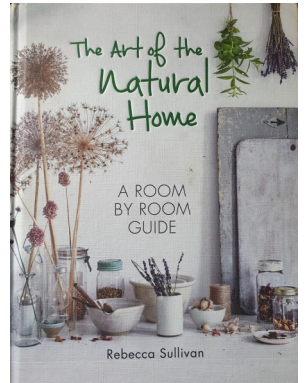
As I write this on the Vernal Equinox, spring has definitely sprung and so I hope that you are all enjoying the lighter evenings and (with luck) the warmer/drier months to come.

Eager Beavers were asked to take part in the new Magpie Thrifty Festival in Exmouth a few weeks ago and it was an excellent opportunity to meet up with like-minded people to celebrate all things environmental. From an EagerBeaversTSJ perspective, it was also the chance to consider activities away from the usual litter picking and community garden, as the

focus this time was on repairing, repurposing, saving, mending and reusing.

I realise that I have always tried to consider the effects I am personally having on the environment and as such, used to recycle back in the day, long before it became fashionable. However, as I have got older I have moved up a notch or two by trying to make anything I can safer for the planet with products that most of us have in our cupboards already.

A lot of my ideas have come from the excellent book 'The Art of the Natural Home' by Rebecca Sullivan. Written with the emphasis on the natural, it uses the holistic approach in everything and, for me, has been an absolute inspiration, enabling me to make products for the entire home from scratch. That having been said, making things for myself is one thing compared with creating lots of items to take along to a festival. Picture the chaos that ensued in our kitchen making testers to give away on the day to show others how 'easy' these things can be! I hadn't anticipated how much damage can be made so quickly in such a small space but, thank goodness, we live on to tell the tale.



The messiest part by far was the creation of the bath bombs. Clinton (my long suffering husband) had offered to help as he'd realised that I was getting a bit stressed having been working fulltime and then trying to create all of the freebies on my days off. He had taken charge



of making these and, to be honest, I had pretty much left him to it as I carried on with making the moisturiser and body butter tester pots. The book is very straightforward in its instructions and said to add water gradually to the dry ingredients (arrowroot, bicarb, citric acid and Epsom salts) to create a mixture that you can then place into a mould with essential oils etc., Clinton, like many I imagine, thought that the book was being overly cautious when it said gradually and added the water all in one go. Well, what can I say except it became clear they're called bath bombs for a reason! It was very, very messy and took quite a while to sort out the carnage but, hey, the kitchen smells very nice!

As for the day itself, we were very well received; the general public were more than happy to take away our freebies and our printed instructions - I can only hope that some may continue to try these things at home in the future. Don't get me wrong, I realise that not everyone will think it's normal to make their own beauty products but, for me, it's very satisfying. Imagine knowing exactly what is in your moisturiser (for example) - it's organic,

vegan, not tested on animals, and the best part of all it's CHEAP! I get a real buzz out of knowing that I can make things from scratch and have been doing this for years.

When I chat to people at work about this, the first thing most people do is scrutinise my face, as if I must be some sort of weirdo with terrible skin. I can almost see the confusion when they have to admit that, actually, for over 100 I don't look too bad! The fact is that the beauty industry makes millions from us and if I am honest I actually like being able to make my own products - it's satisfying and, to me, it's really important to know exactly what it is that I am using on a daily basis. I have been making my own moisturiser and body butter for so long now it has become more normal for me to look for the ingredients, rather than buying any ready made product.



My leaving gift to you is that you can take off ANY eye makeup, (waterproof or otherwise) with coconut oil. Yes, really. Just a bit of coconut oil rubbed onto the eyelids. I use reusable/washable pads to take it all off and there you go. Go on, give it a try, I dare you, you will be amazed.

I hope I may have inspired you to try some homemade recipes/instructions yourself. If you would like more information please contact me directly, I am more than happy to send you the details on how to make stuff - just drop me a text or email.

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

Lisette Johnston

Jess Bailey
Independent Devon County Councillor, Otter Valley Ward



Water Leak in Higher Metcombe

As you have probably seen, water has been pouring down the road from Higher Metcombe towards Tipton for more than a month. I know that many residents have reported this to South West Water. When I contacted SWW earlier this week to find out why it hasn't been fixed they told me that they had been out to inspect the flow on 11th March and had not located any leak. I think it is highly likely that this IS a water leak and I have written to the CEO of SWW and requested SWW come out and re-inspect with their engineers as a matter of urgency. Not only is it a terrible loss of water but it is causing damage to the highway and it needs to be resolved.

Tipton St John Primary School

I continue to press for the release into the public domain of the Department for Education report on the possible school sites. It is vital that everyone can see what has been written. Devon County Council has also carried out its own work and this needs to be released in conjunction with the DfE report. My position remains unchanged in that I wish to see the school rebuilt on a flood-free site in the community of Tipton St John.

Footpaths

The River Otter is a very active river and it's playing havoc with the adjacent footpaths which are enjoyed by many of us. There is erosion at multiple points which has resulted in footbridges being shut or at risk of closure, narrowing of footpaths and the total collapse of one stretch of footpath at Ottery St Mary. Whilst there are excellent footpath wardens at Devon County Council there just are not enough to deal with the issues caused by such an active river. My group (the independent and Green group) at DCC put forward a budget amendment to increase the capital spending and number of footpath wardens. Unfortunately, this was voted down by Conservative led DCC.

Roads

I don't think I can ever recall the roads being as bad as they are now. This is the result of a decade of underinvestment by the government. Across the country it is estimated that the one-time catch-up cost has increased by 16% to a record new high of £16.3 billion and the work to address it would still take a decade to complete. This is the amount needed as a one-off at today's prices to bring the road network up to a condition that would allow it to be managed cost effectively as part of a proactive asset management approach.

Please continue to report local potholes online via DCC's website and notify me of any that are of particular concern and I will do my very best to push for them to be fixed.

Cllr Jess Bailey
01404 814056

jessica.bailey@devon.gov.uk

Attention all budding entrepreneurs!

An exciting potential new business venture has emerged in Tipton St John, following the discovery of an old bore-hole on the playing field and an unlimited supply of fresh water.

The possibilities are endless. Who knows - Tipton St John could rival Bath, Leamington and Buxton as exclusive spa destinations.

For further details, please contact <https://www.tiptontimes.org.uk/> and ask for April.



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



The Emergency Plan for Tipton Ward:

My co-Councillor Matt Williamson has been working hard to formulate a plan, along with neighbouring towns and villages; which will be triggered should any emergency befall the local area. We now have a list of local residents who have volunteered as part of the Community Response Team and we will be contacting them shortly, once the plan is formalized. Two emergency boxes containing high viz jackets, torches and other emergency equipment will be stored on the east and west side of the village. Sundial Care Home have kindly agreed to one being stored in an outbuilding and this will be in place shortly.

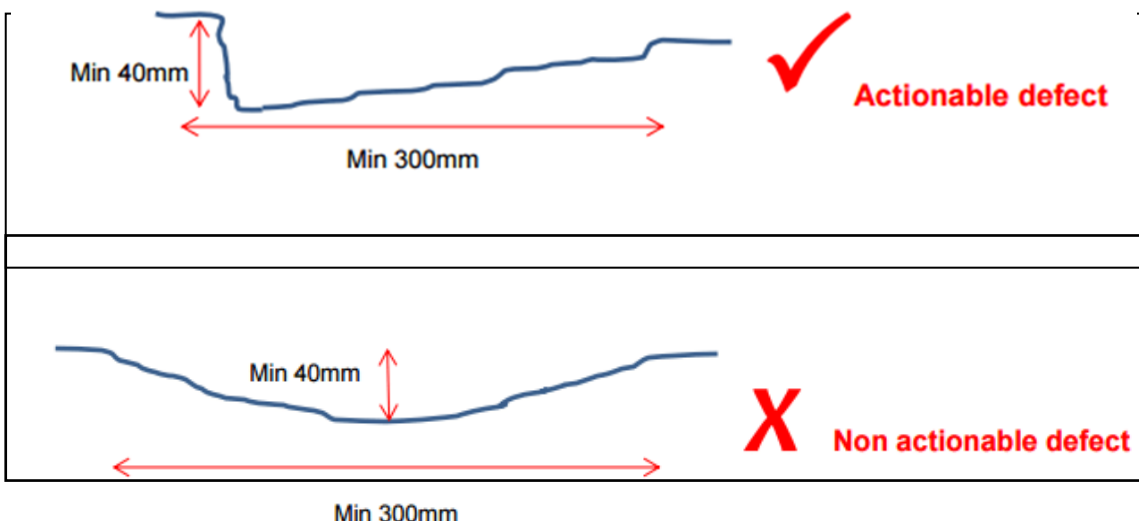
Tipton St John Primary School:

The Town Council is fully supportive of the school remaining within the village and the Clerk has written to the DofE requesting a copy of the report; to date this has not been made available and we still have no further information regarding potential sites.

Potholes

The anguish of every motorist! The Council is painfully aware of the problem with our local roads. Any pot-holes you note can be reported to Devon County Council. However, smaller potholes [see non actionable defects] are only repaired if sufficient funds are available.

Please see the images below which illustrate a pothole with a vertical edge:



20mph Speed Limit:

The Council is working with the Police regarding the creation of a speedwatch scheme and other measures to reduce speeding within the village.

Village Hall[s]

East Devon Council currently has grants available up to £5000 from the Village Hall Small Grants Fund.

“Grants are intended to support smaller capital projects in village halls such as boiler replacements, insulation, toilet upgrades and new kitchens. The Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) fund is expected to stay open until December 2024; however it may be withdrawn before this”.

Whilst our village hall has been renovated to a high standard, thanks to the Community Hall Trustees, I thought it worth highlighting.

Matt and I are here to represent the views and needs of the community, so please don't hesitate to contact us:

Cllr Janice Aherne

Tel: 07508308569

Janice.aherne@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Matt Williamson

Tel: 07840237161

Email: mattwilliamson@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk



OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL

Report of Ottery St Mary Town Council Meeting 4th March 2024

Members of the Gerway Action Group gave an update in relation to their plans to fight the appeal in reference to application 22/1973/MOUT. A meeting will be taking place between the group and the Council to discuss what support the Council can offer.

After a tender process was carried out the Council has awarded two contracts to DTG for the Grounds Maintenance within the town and Shaun Davey for the Cemetery Ground Maintenance.

The Council decided that the MUGA at Strawberry Lane cannot proceed in its current format as the quote received is more than £100,000 above the Section 106 funding that is available. The Council decided to proceed with an application for a Football Foundation PlayZone.

The Council has signed a contract with SPACE to continue providing a youth club at the Station Hub for the next two years.

The Council will be appealing the outcome of their Freedom of Information request to have sight of the report which details potential sites within Tipton St John for a new school.

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairs and Vice Chairs from each committee have met with Simon Jupp, MP. A variety of issues were discussed including concerns regarding the level of service patients are receiving from Coleridge Medical Centre, the Council's frustration that they are not being allowed access to the report detailing potential sites for the new school in Tipton St John and the planning appeal at Gerway.

Future Full Council meeting dates:

Monday 8th April 2024 – Council Offices

Monday 13th May 2024 – Council Offices

Monday 3rd June 2024 - Council Offices

Useful dates:

- Citizens Advice at Council Offices every Tuesday from 9.30am until 11.30am (subject to volunteer availability) or telephone 01395 265070
- DCC Highways Surgery on Thursday 28th March from 10.15am - 12 noon
- Anniversary Tea at the Station Hub on Wednesday 10th April from 2pm until 4pm for all previous and current Ottery St Mary Town Councillors and staff
- DCC Highways Surgery on Thursday 30th May from 10.15am - 12 noon

Council agrees increase in overall precept for 2024-25

Ottery St Mary Town Council, in a decision made by Councillors on 8th January, 2024, has approved an increase of 9.3% in its overall precept for the financial year 2024/25. The precept, which is the Town Council's share of the Council Tax, reflects the Council's commitment to providing essential local services as requested to residents, businesses, visitors, and support organisations in the community.

The uplift in the precept equates to £1.85 per week for a Band D home, compared to £1.70 per week in the previous year. The decision to increase the precept was not taken lightly, with the Council being acutely aware of the ongoing challenging times. However, the Council has ambitious plans for the upcoming year, including:

- Continuing the transport study in the town
- Undertaking a feasibility study for developing the Station Hub
- Increasing provision for young people and families by providing a youth club at the Station and supporting mental health facilities for young people
- Implementing regeneration projects
- Continuing with the Coast Meets Country project encouraging visitors to the parish
- Extending the Shop Front Grant scheme
- Continuing the Community Grant scheme
- Continuing with the Multi Use Games Area project at Strawberry Lane

The Town Council Offices are open from 10am until 1pm Monday to Friday. You can keep up to date by following our Facebook page or looking at our website where you can view agendas and minutes for all Council and Committee Meetings, together with news and updates.

Kerry Kennell, Ottery St Mary Town Clerk

OSMTC Contact details:

Tel: 01404 812252

Email: admin@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.otterystmary-tc.gov.uk

'It's like magic' by Leah Stonex

That's a good description of the effect that music has on people: we are moved by it, changed by it, healed by it, lifted by it.

In our Music for Wellbeing Group, we have been enjoying the magic of having music as our focus. Each week we:

- Have a theme which is revealed through a music quiz.
- Sing old, familiar songs.
- Listen to a range of different music.
- Play percussion instruments.
- Challenge the brain with reading and playing rhythms.
- Move to a variety of music styles.
- Share our musical loves.
- Have a lot of fun giving music a go.
- Relax over tea, coffee, and snacks.

We really pack a lot into each session, but why do we see such benefits to those who come along? Well, music, and in particular singing, is a great leveller, it's accessible to all and a consolidator of community.

There are so many physical benefits to singing together, and a few of these are:

- Improved breathing, posture, and muscle tension.
- Regulating the heart rate
- Sustaining a healthy immune system

And for our mental health the benefits include:

- Improved memory
- Reduction of stress levels and depression
- Improved overall sense of happiness and wellbeing

A.E.Budson from his blog 'Why is music good for the brain?' sums it all up nicely:

'Music can activate almost all brain regions and networks, it can help to keep a myriad of brain pathways and networks strong, including those networks that are involved in well-being, learning, cognitive function, quality of life, and happiness. In fact, there is only one other situation in which you can activate so many brain networks all at once, and that is when you participate in social activities.'

Here at Ottery Help Scheme, social activities and music activities are highly valued and those attending are finding connection and joy. If you are interested in trying a group, please do get in touch, you will receive a warm welcome.

Two thank yous!

We'd also like to say a very big thank you to Leah Stonex, the group leader who does such a brilliant job at running the group, and to Ottery and District Hospital League of Friends who have fully funded this group.

Emily Lezzeri, Chief Officer

Ottery Help Scheme 01404 813041 info@otteryhelpscheme.org.uk

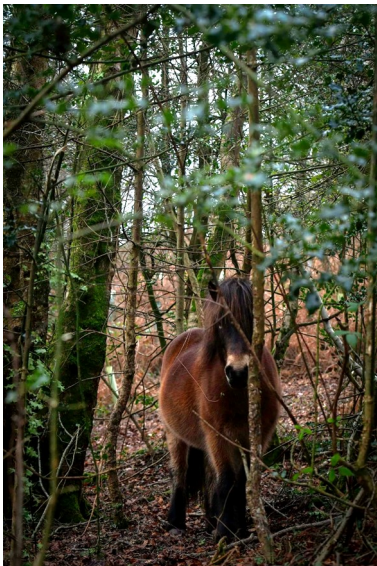


TIPTON COMMUNITY HALL ANNUAL COLLECTION

A reminder to help us towards
the cost of maintaining the premises,
if you can, by giving a cash donation
in the enclosed brown envelope
or making a BACS payment
- all the details you need are on page 14.

RSPB Aylesbeare Common

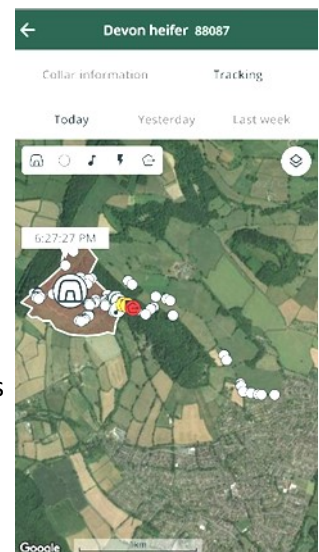
Hello from Aylesbeare. I hope everyone has been keeping up with all the weather that February has thrown at us. It's been non-stop here, trying to clear as much encroaching scrub as possible before the start of the nesting season, whilst also keeping up with the storms and maintaining the fence line so our ponies don't go adventuring. They are hard at work munching away unwanted vegetation, so be sure not to distract or disturb them if you're lucky enough to spy a few on the common!



This month we thought we'd focus on a site we manage called Fire Beacon Hill. Slightly further afield, overlooking Sidmouth, it is well worth a visit just for the vista: it enjoys breathtaking views of Sidmouth and the sea; over towards Mutter's Moor and Harpford Wood; and even as far as Aylesbeare Common! Fire Beacon Hill has a fascinating history and prehistory. Its name comes from its use as a beacon from possibly up to a thousand years ago, and it was part of the chain of beacons that warned of the coming of the Spanish Armada in 1588. Underfoot, its geology is also quite unique. As you walk up the steep hill that leads to Fire Beacon, the stones and pebbles that are characteristic of most of the local area here are replaced by flint instead. This is part of a clay-and-flint deposit, underneath which is a deposit of calcareous Greensand, a type of sandstone. These layers form the distinctive ridge that makes the reserve such a trek to get to, and also mean the soil is more alkaline, as opposed to traditional heath soils that are more acidic.

Fire Beacon Hill is an excellent example of how collaborations between organisations to protect local habitats are becoming more the norm. The site is owned by Sidmouth Town Council, but has been managed by us since 1994. More recently, we have been involved with the management of Core Hill, just over the Saxon bank, which is owned by the Woodland Trust, and the Forestry Commission land that is to the north and east of the site. This year is the first where we have been able to graze cattle over all this area, thanks to our new NoFence collars. As you will know if you've read this newsletter, or seen the signs around Fire Beacon, this technology applies a virtual fence around an area, controlled via an app. Not only does this reduce our workload, it also allows us to graze more difficult sites like this, because there is no fence to keep them in on Fire Beacon Hill. A much larger area, notably including woodland grazing now, is reaping the benefits of our cattle.

We'd like to talk a bit about dog-walking up on the site. Unfortunately we have had a couple of incidents recently involving dogs chasing the cattle, which is distressing for them and can cause the cows to run off and escape the invisible boundary. This means the cattle owner has to find and bring them back (checking their location on the NoFence app). One evening, our farmer had to walk one of the cows back up through the lanes all the way from a residential area in Sidford. Farmers are always busy and having to take time to do this is very inconvenient, especially when it might have been avoided if these dogs had been under control. **Please could all dog walkers be mindful of the presence of cattle on the open heath and in the woodland, and if you know your dog may wander or chase, please keep it on a lead.** This will help us support both the valuable conservation grazing and open access of the site, which so many people have such a strong connection to. Additionally, as we enter the breeding bird season please remember that, according to the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000, **dogs should be kept on leads from 1st March - 31st July, to reduce disturbance to both livestock and wildlife.** Fire Beacon Hill is a lovely site, and rules such as this only exist to help keep it that way for everyone!



As the signs of spring start to appear I do really recommend taking the time to visit. Enjoy the view, perhaps with a flask, and remember some of our rarest species call these sites home, so please treat it with the same care as you would your own home.

Alice, RSPB Residential Volunteer

We have been busy wrapping up the last of the winter management tasks, including both surveying of our roadside trees and carrying out any remedial work which, after the number of storms that we have experienced this winter, is quite significant.

I was approached by the Devon Wildlife Trust, 'Upstream Thinking Team' to see if we could help out with some 'NFM' work NFM I hear you say? 'Natural Flood Management' something that is very close to a lot of our hearts. We have helped to provide the team with materials to help to slow the flow in the upper Otter catchment, making them 120 brash bundles that are going to be installed into both streams and rills to help hold the water back. These have been installed in late March so hopefully by this coming summer any unseasonal heavy rain will be helped to stay in the higher reaches of the catchment.

Our final bit of winter survey work took place in March with a further Snipe survey taking place across the wet heath areas. This turned up 110 individuals - slightly less than earlier in the year but still good numbers for March. Our winter bird transects have been complete: a fortnightly walk around the reserve on a set route recording what we see and hear - thanks to our volunteers that assist with this. Our last of the season Hen Harrier watch will take place at the end of March, a national scheme that we participate in. Unfortunately this year we had very low numbers with just two individuals seen in October 23 but, as they say, a nil return is good to know.

Anyway, let's now hope for a dry spring where our important heathland species will be able to flourish. If you get the chance, get out on the heath to enjoy the wildlife and the views,

Toby Taylor



**East Devon
National
Landscape**

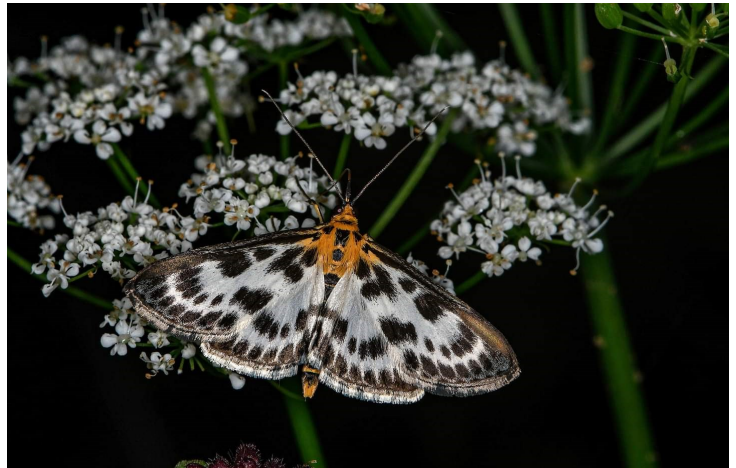
Marvellous Moths

RSPB Aylesbeare Common

Saturday 20th April 2024

10 am - 12 noon

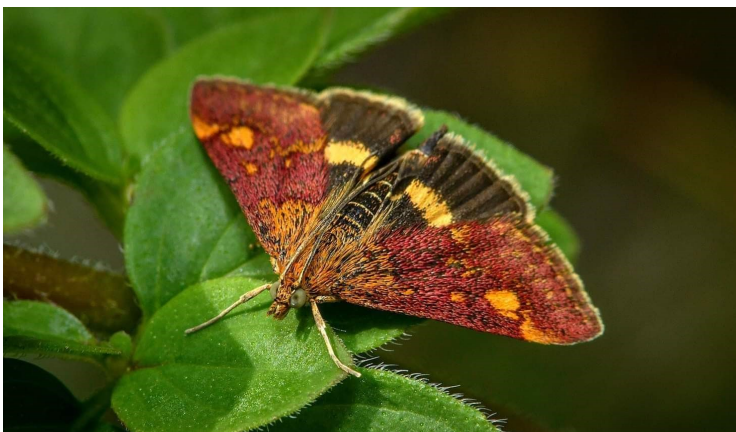
Free event



Join moth expert Paul Butter to discover some of the moths that make RSPB Aylesbeare Common their home. After an overnight trap has been set up to attract these night-time flyers, enjoy a chance to get up close and examine these mysterious creatures of the night and then release them back onto the common. Discover more about their fascinating lives, habitats and how we can help these sometimes-misunderstood minibeasts, followed by a short walk exploring the common for daytime flying moths. All ages welcome - very suitable for children. This event is a part of a series organised by East Devon National Landscape (former AONB) and is also part of the [Saving Special Species](#), Nature Recovery Programme.

Parking - Joney's Cross car park (EX10 OBL), on A3052 opposite RSPB Aylesbeare Reserve.

www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/aylesbeare-common



For more information on future East Devon NL events, projects and news please subscribe to their e-newsletter. [Events - East Devon National Landscape \(eastdevon-nl.org.uk\)](#)

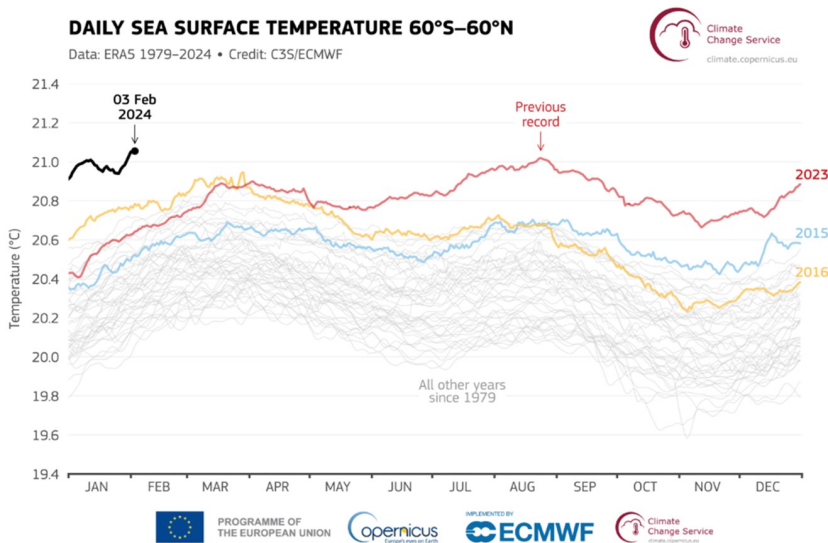
Booking is essential

Contact: savingspecialspecies@gmail.com or Ruth Worsley, Nature Engagement Coordinator, 01297 489741

Tipton Times Weather Bureau

Hasn't it been a miserably warm and wet winter? 10-20 years ago, as climate science reached the point where we could predict regional details of climate change, we started predicting "warmer wetter winters" for the UK. To be honest, even as a meteorologist and totally-convinced climate-change believer, I didn't think I would see the effects so dramatically and visibly in my own lifetime.

I am sure you have heard a lot of headlines recently about global temperatures breaking all-time records. The graph below shows sea-surface temperatures (excluding the far north and south) for every year since 1979 with 2015, 2016, 2023 and 2024 highlighted and shows just how dramatic the warming has been over the last year. Since about May 2023 oceans have not just been the warmest on record but have been consistently warmer than previous records by at least 0.2C, often more than 0.3C. All the lines show that the range of variation between other years is around 0.6C, so this is an enormous jump. Sea surface temperatures are a huge driver of air temperature, so it is not surprising that record air temperatures have followed a similar pattern.



You have probably also heard that a big factor in the last year's extreme temperatures has been El Nino, that periodic warming of the tropical oceans in the eastern Pacific. El Nino is the single biggest cause of year-to-year climate variability, and it means that we can be confident that when the current El Nino comes to an end, so will the really extreme record temperatures. 2016, highlighted in the graph and the previous warmest year on record, was the last major El Nino. Nevertheless, with the long-term trend of climate warming, we only expect the temperature to return into

the very top part of the traces in the graph - it is very unlikely to fall into the middle or lower part for any long periods of time.

The other thing which has been in the news headlines a lot is the 2015 Paris Agreement to try to keep global temperatures below 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. The 2023 average was recently reported to have been 1.45C above (according to the World Meteorological Organization, averaging 5 different datasets). Met Office forecasts predict that 2024 is most likely to stay slightly below 1.5, but for the first time the upper limit of predictions is above (and 2023 exceeded the upper limit of predictions!). So, if 2024 does go above, will we have broken the Paris Agreement? No, because Paris was about the long-term average, to smooth out the effect of things like El Nino, so a single year above 1.5 is not enough.

Surprisingly though, a group of climate scientists at the Met Office recently realised that the Paris Agreement never defined how we would know when we had exceeded 1.5C. We typically define a "long-term" average as something like a 20-year mean temperature. The trouble is that if we use that, we wouldn't know we had passed 1.5 until 10 years afterwards, which is not good if the whole purpose of monitoring it is to drive action ... that would be a 10-year delay on action and 10-years more damage. As a result, those scientists wrote a paper, recently published in the prestigious journal, *Nature*, which proposed that we base our assessment on the average of the last 10 year's observations combined with the average projections for the next 10 years from the world's top climate models.

So now we do have a proposed definition. Current IPCC projections are that we will reach that 1.5C threshold around 2030 ... not far away. It's going to be almost impossible to avoid exceeding the Paris target now, but hopefully at least knowing that we are doing so will help drive further urgent action to minimise the onward rise, and perhaps even start to reverse it within our children's lifetimes.

Ken Mylne

Tipton Past Friendships over the generations.

A few months ago, an old letter written by a lady called Rosemary Doran surfaced from the back of a school cupboard and was passed on to me. This letter had with it a photograph of children at Tipton St John school taken in 1904. Reading through the letter it explained that in the photo was Rosemary's mother Ena, and her friend Marjorie aged around 6 years of age.



The photograph shows around twenty school children dressed in Victorian smocks with laced black boots, lined up outside the upper site school building with their school mistress, who was dressed in full-length black dress. The letter explained that the girls, Ena Trivett and Marjorie Wood had both lived in Tipton St John, Marjorie had lived at the old Post Office and her father was the postman, John Wood. Ena's family lived next door to the Post Office, Ena's father worked on the GWR railway at Tipton St John.

The girls lacemaking outside of the PO

In Rosemary's letter she wrote how the two girls were good friends who not only went to school together but, as they lived so close, they were often to be seen playing together at home too. Looking closely at the school photo I could pick out Ena and Marjorie and I began to think that I had seen them before. Lo and behold I found another photograph that I already had, which showed two girls lacemaking outside the door at the old Post Office and I am almost certain that these are the two same girls - Ena and Marjorie.

I tried to make contact with Rosemary but unfortunately, since she had written the letter, she had passed away. I was able though to talk to Marjorie Wood's granddaughter, who still lives locally. She told me that the families had remained friends. This was great to hear as Ena and the Trivett family had moved from Tipton to Exeter around 1910 where her father continued to work for the GWR railway. So the girls, Marjorie and Ena, were then separated, with Ena living in a different village and going to a new school. But the

*Marjorie's father,
John Wood,
the village Postman*



friendships survived the years, the families remained friends, and when Ena married and had her own family, they would come and stay with the Wood family in Tipton - and now the friendship continues today with Ena's granddaughter Rachel and Marjorie's granddaughter Marilyn still keeping in touch.

Ena's father, John Trivett, in the middle

It was lovely to see the photographs and make the connections with their families, and how wonderful that the families have remained friends over the years.

Friendships spanning over a century.

Many thanks to Marilyn and Rachel.



CHURCH CALENDAR FOR APRIL & MAY 2024

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

APRIL

SATURDAY	6 th	10.00 am	Easter Coffee Morning & produce stall	Community Hall
SUNDAY	7 th	10.00 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	N.Pop O.S.M.
SUNDAY	14 th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J
MONDAY	15 th	7.30 pm	Church Annual Meeting	Community Hall
SUNDAY	21 st	10.30 (for 11.00 am)	Café Church	Community Hall
SUNDAY	28 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J. T.S.J.

MAY

SATURDAY	4 th	10.00 am	Coffee Morning and produce stall.	Community Hall
SUNDAY	5 th	10.00 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	N.Pop O.S.M.
THURSDAY (Ascension Day)	9 th	11.00 am 7.30 pm	Holy Communion 'Thy Kingdom Come' Prayer Meeting	N Pop T.S.J.
SUNDAY	12 th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	19 th	10.30 am	Mission Community Holy Communion	O.S.M.
SUNDAY	26 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.

JUNE

SATURDAY	1 st	10.00 am	Coffee Morning and produce stall.	Community Hall
SUNDAY	2 nd	10.00 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	N.Pop O.S.M.

ONLINE SERVICES

In addition to the live services and events listed above, an online Service of Worship takes place at 9.30 a.m. on the following Sundays : **7th & 21st April and 5th May.**
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, which is also on the Mission Community website (ottervalechurches.org).

Diary Dates - April and May 2024

All dates correct at the time of publication.

Art, Craft, Hobbies and Pastimes 2.30-4.30pm on Thursdays in the Community Hall

April

6th/7th April	10am	Volunteer weekend, Playing Field	P7
8th April	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14
13th April	10am-noon	TLG Fundraising Coffee Morning, Community Hall	back cover
22nd April	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14
27th April	2.30pm	Childrens' entertainment, Community Hall	back cover

May

4th May	2.30pm	Lord's Taverners v Parliament XI Playing Field	P5
12th May	7pm	Film Night, Community Hall	back cover
13th May	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14
27th May	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14

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 16th April - 7.30pm at The Institute

'Saving Castle Drogo and update'

Paula Clarke describes the castle, its story, rescue and update since she spoke 5 years ago.

Tuesday 21st May - 7.30pm at The Institute

'Magnificent Women and their Flying Machines'

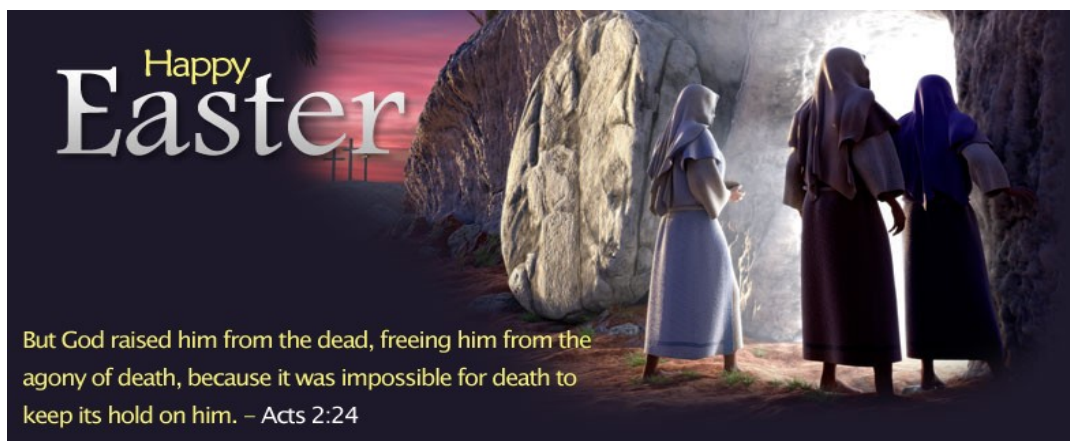
Sally Smith talks about the compelling stories of women pioneers whose soaring ambitions achieved firsts in the field of aviation.

The Museum

Located in the Old Town Hall opposite St Mary's Church in Ottery St Mary, the museum opens on Good Friday 29th March until the end of September this year. New displays will be on view, so please remember to pay us a visit this Spring and Summer. Please check up-to-date opening hours on our website before visiting but, at present, we plan to open 4 days per week, Wednesday (10.30am - 4pm) through Saturday (11am - 4pm).

If you can spare a little time and would like to volunteer to Steward for a few hours this year or participate in archiving our artefacts on museum accredited software, we would love to hear from you.

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



Tipton Ladies Group Coffee Morning in aid of



Saturday 13th April 10.00am

Tipton St John Community Hall

Cakes Books Jigsaws
Gifts Handicrafts Draw

Please Support Us

*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



Film Night on Sunday, 12th May at Tipton Community Hall, starting at 7.00pm.

Tickets £5 to include tea/coffee in the interval.

For bookings, contact Brian Rice 01404 811396 or rice196@btinternet.com