



John Hayward

TIPTON TIMES

325
February
and March
2025

Tipton Times was started in 1969 and is produced and distributed to local households every two months by volunteers. Costs are met from voluntary contributions
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THANK YOU
JOHN AND
PAULINE



RETURNS TO
TIPTON

COFFEE MORNING
IN AID OF THE
MOTOR NEURONE
DISEASE ASSOC.

FAMILY FUN
AHEAD ON THE
PLAYING FIELD

COPY DEADLINE

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

Farewell to Pauline and John Belton from the Hall Trustees

Pauline and John seated with the incoming committee

Jane (Booking Clerk), Richard, John T., John P., Liz, Andrew, Brian (Chairman). Kyle and Neil absent from the meeting.

Photo by Anne Sadler

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

Editorial

Welcome to the February/March issue of Tipton Times.

February sees a major change for one of the village's major institutions, with Frankie and Michelle leaving the Golden Lion on the 22nd after 22 years. It has deservedly gained a superb reputation for the quality of its food, both locally and further afield. Those who remember the sad state it had fallen into are very grateful for all they have done. We wish them very well in their retirement: see page 16 for Michelle's reflections on their time in Tipton. Their last day of trading is on Saturday 22nd February, when the pub will be open for drinks only. We wish Annie, Esme and Julian the very best when they take over and the Lion will no doubt feature in our next issue! The changeover date is Friday 28th February.

As we reported in our last issue, it's all change at the Community Hall as you can see from our front cover. You will find new Chair Brian Rice's first report on page 14 along with the contact details for booking clerk Jane Gibson. Our best wishes go to Brian and his team as they build on John and Pauline Belton's excellent work.

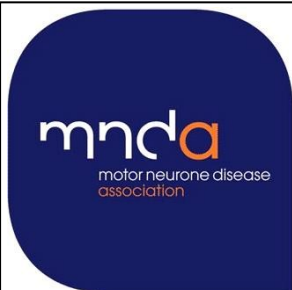
I'm sure we're all looking forward to the forthcoming TIPPS production of Aladdin from the 18th to the 22nd February. **Please note: We have been advised that some posters for TIPPS Aladdin show have an error in the web address for tickets, including the one on the back page of this Tipton Times. The correct address is <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/TIPPS> which will take you straight to the show. The QR code on the posters is correct so you can also use that.**

A few years ago we featured the Devon Tithe Map of Tipton St John as a fascinating insight into part of our past. For those interested in finding out more about the history of the space you occupy, see the article on page 27. Judith Taylor has also made use of the map in her article on page 28.

It promises to be a busy and active year on the playing field as you can see from the poster on page 5. The playing field now has its own excellent website to be found as part of an online hub: <https://tiptonstjohn.co.uk/>, which includes links to all our village organisations, including the Tipton Times website where you can find the fascinating historic photographs colourised by Judith Taylor and mentioned in our last edition: <https://www.tiptontimes.org.uk/gallery/>.

The Editors

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**Tipton Ladies Coffee Morning
in aid of Motor Neurone Disease
on Saturday, March 15th
10am until 12 noon
in Tipton Community Hall**



Last year one of our long-serving members of Tipton Ladies was diagnosed with MND. Motor neurone disease affects the nerves known as neurones. These nerves tell your muscles what to do and are found in the brain and spine. The disease is progressive and those affected will gradually lose the use of hands, legs, speech etc.

The MND association supports the sufferer and their loved ones with online forums, helplines, branches and groups. They also provide financial help for increased living costs associated with a long-term debilitating illness. Another crucial role is supporting and funding research. Our member has taken this on board and has become part of research into a possible treatment, she is looking to the future and hoping that her experience may benefit others.

So, please do support our coffee morning and the MND association. Help them to give the support needed to people with MND, their families and the future treatment of this disease.

For more information or if you are interested in helping, please contact
Jenny Parkin 01404 811720 or Ann Knight 01404 812040



TIPPS have not been idle since we staged *Miranda*, our autumn production last year.

We have been rehearsing our pantomime ***Aladdin***, which will be on stage towards the end of this month. Come along and boo and hiss at the nasty Abanazar and encourage Wishee Washie to wash his Smelly socks!

Performance dates are **Tuesday 18th - Friday 21st February at 7.30pm** and on **Saturday 22nd** we have two performances at **2pm and 6pm**, at Tipton St. John Community Hall.

Tickets are priced at £10 for adults and £5 for under 16's. You can book online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/TIPPS Tickets will also be available at Tipton Village Store on Saturday mornings from 25th January.

Yvonne Kellett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors

I would like to record thanks to two people who have done a lot for the local community in recent years. John and Pauline Belton have earned gratitude from us all for their service to the Community Hall.

John has been such a reliable Chair of Trustees through a period that has not always been easy partly due to not always having a full team to support him. The Hall is in excellent condition with several improvements during his term of office - not least the splendid new floor.

Pauline is to be congratulated on the way she has juggled the demands of all the village organisations using the hall as well as fitting in weddings, funeral teas, fund raising events and other private functions.

A big thank you to them both and good luck to their successors. How would the village manage without dedicated **volunteers** like these.

Sincerely

Ann Knight





Save the Date

Easter Egg stravaganza

Saturday 19th April | From 10am onwards
Tipton St John Community Playing Field

*Easter Egg
Trail*

*Face
Painting*

*Easter Themed
Competitions*

*Spring Flower
Arranging
Competition*

*Teas, Coffees &
Easter Treats*

*Fun Games
& Races*

To join the Tipton Events Group, email info@tiptonstjohn.co.uk
Visit the Website for more info: <https://tiptonstjohn.co.uk/>

Other village event dates for your calendar:

Date	Event	Highlights
Thurs 8 th May	VE Day: 80th Anniversary	Food sharing & Beacon lighting
Sun 1 st June	Gardens open day	A tour of Tipton gardens in bloom
Sat 5 th July	Otter Rail & River Run	Run, marshal or support this well-established village event
Sat 12 th July	Tipton's BIG Family Fun Day	Duck race, Dog show, Games, Stalls, BBQ, Hog roast, Bar & Bands
Summer	Family games	Rounders, Boule, Croquet and more ...watch this space.
Fri 31 st Oct	Ghoulish Gathering	Scary maze, pumpkin carving, fancy dress, Beacon lighting





NATURE NOTES

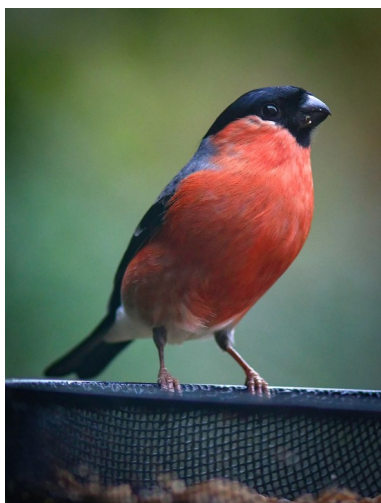
A very Happy 2025 to one and all, if it's not already too late. I am writing this in the middle of January, which of course also means it's also the middle of our winter. It's been a strange few weeks, where one week we reached the balmy heights of 13°C and then plunged to -3°C the next! Currently it is hard to see anything with the density of fog that we are experiencing!

In February perhaps our most elegant bird, the heron, starts to get amorous. Herons nest in groups called heronries. These consist of 4 - 20 large nests in tree tops and are used year after year. An unusual courtship dance by the male precedes mating. He stretches his neck up then lowers it over his back, with his bill pointing upwards. Three to five eggs are laid from February onwards.

Some rookeries are starting to show activity on milder days with rooks squabbling over sticks and territory. Some birds have already started to sing. Mistle and song thrushes proclaim their territory from lofty perches. On the sunnier days a great tit may sing its repetitive *tea-cher tea-cher* song.



We have quite a few species of birds coming to the bird table at present. The flock of ever-hungry house sparrows being one, and several members of the tit family, along with the fleeting visit of a Nuthatch. We also have finches. The finch family consists of quite a few species, such as the Brambling, Redpoll, Siskin, Twite, Linnet and Crossbill. Let's just feature the ones you are more likely to see at your table. The Chaffinch is a very common, sparrow-sized finch. Chaffinches build neat, bowl-shaped nests in trees and shrubs. They feed on seeds and insects and will happily visit bird tables, but do not feed openly on feeders, preferring to hop about on the ground and under hedges instead.



Male Bullfinch

Chaffinches are present all year round and more than 6 million pairs breed here in summer. The Goldfinch is a strikingly-coloured small finch. It eats small seeds, especially from ragwort, dandelions and teasels (their long, pointed bills help them to extract the seeds), as well as invertebrates. It will visit bird tables and feeders, too. During winter, Goldfinches roam about in flocks of up to 100 birds, searching for food. However, some of our UK birds will migrate as far south as Spain to avoid the worst of the harsh weather. The Bullfinch is a large, plump finch that feeds on buds and fruit in woodlands, hedgerows, parklands, gardens and orchards. Beautiful, easy to tame and skilful at mimicry, it was often taken as a cage-bird in times past. Shy and secretive, its melancholy call may be the only indication of its presence in a thicket. Bullfinches usually nest in shrubs, such as hawthorn and blackthorn, making a flimsy nest out of twigs and moss. Greenfinches are common, large finches. The Greenfinch feeds on seeds, and will visit bird tables and feeders in gardens. In winter, they form flocks with other finches, and can be seen roaming the countryside and parklands for food.

Greenfinches nest in small colonies in trees and bushes. In spring, they perform a display flight, showing off their yellow wing and tail patches. Between four and six eggs are produced and the chicks are fully fledged 18 days after hatching.

Hazel catkins have started to expand into golden tassels in order to release their pollen to the wind. The female part of the hazel plant, which catches the wind-borne pollen, consists of a tiny red cone of red stigmas. In woodlands the most obvious leaves to emerge are those of the cuckoo pint (or lord and ladies). The leaves push up through the leaf litter furled up but then open out once above ground.

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

Geoff Pinn gjpinn@tiscali.co.uk
photographs Paul Taylor



Tipton St John Playing Field

Firstly I would like to wish you all a happy new year.

Fantastic news! We have some great events planned for the coming year (all organised by our new events team), starting with an Easter event and a family fun day & dog show again this July.

We also have a new Playing Field website tiptonstjohnplayingfield.org, which is definitely worth looking at as it has all the relevant information regarding the playing field. It has been kindly produced by Chiara Broom (I would definitely recommend her work).



Thank you to everyone that took time out to attend the Q & A coffee morning back in December.

We had some really great feedback and ideas from you all. Here are some of the questions along with the answers:

(Q) Is there going to be a time when the two junior pitches get roped off?

(A) Categorically no: the two smaller pitches will not be roped off and we have not been approached by the Junior clubs to do so.

(Q) Would it be beneficial to have a hard path around the field perimeter?

(A) This is an idea that has been discussed at committee meetings and we will endeavour to look into the practicalities of extending the hard pathway in the near future.

(Q) Who funds the playing fields and what do our donations contribute towards?

(A) The playing fields have five main contributors:

- 1 - The cricket club.
- 2 - The football clubs: Tipton FC and West Hill Wasps.
- 3 - The tennis club.
- 4 - Tipton St John Primary School.
- 5 - Tipton St John garage.

The amount that the clubs contribute covers the maintenance cost of the playing field. Any extra projects are funded by your donations (for which we are extremely grateful), eg the extension to the path, the fence going along the edge of the field towards the nature area, any damage caused and future community events.

On the subject of damage: the issue with the roundabout is still ongoing as we are chasing up some quotes and a grant from the parish council to provide help with the costs. We will keep you informed as and when we have been successful with additional funding and the timescale for the repairs. Thank you for your patience on this matter.

We also have lots of plans in the pipeline to make the playing fields more inclusive to all. A lot of the ideas have come from the coffee morning. The most informative feedback was to provide evening events to involve members of the community who are unable to attend daytime events due to other commitments.

We have a date for your diaries. Our first volunteer weekend is going to be on the weekend of the **22nd and 23rd March**. Please do come along, help out and have some fun (maybe a rounders game afterwards). Refreshments will be provided and a whole heap of giggles.

Until next time keep enjoying the field and, as always, any ideas and queries please feel free to email me.



Mark Rigden, Chair

rigden58@btinternet.com

VOSRA Update Happy New Year!

We often spend a lot of time during the winter, wishing the time away and looking forward to the promise of warmer weather and lighter days in the coming spring. However, the gardening experts tell us that it is the ideal time to plant bare root shrubs and trees. And that's exactly what we have been doing, here in Venn Ottery.



Heralding the Arrival of Spring

Nothing says spring has arrived better than the yellow daffodil and now, thanks to the generosity and hard work of some Venn Ottery residents, we are looking forward to a display on both the verge, opposite the entrance to Barton Mews, and on the Green.



Following a suggestion by some local residents, an appeal for funding was launched to help purchase some daffodils to transform the verge by the new flood alleviation scheme. The residents' kindness and generosity enabled the planting of some 1,600 daffodil bulbs (King Alfred & Rainbow varieties). In addition to this, 100 wildlife-friendly, native hedge saplings (Hazel, Spindle, Crab apple, Privet, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Elderberry and Rosa rugosa) were also able to be purchased and a new hedge created behind the daffodils.

Once the verge planting was completed, the leftover bulbs and saplings were used on the green - the bulbs in a strip from the bridge, alongside the stream and the saplings to fill in the hedge that was destroyed when the tree came down.

Thank you to everyone who donated and who volunteered their time and gardening expertise to get the job done in ultra quick time. Huge thanks also go to Otter Nurseries and Bowhayes Trees for their kindness, generosity and support.

Venn Ottery Green

Thanks to the generosity of Devon Wildlife Trust, the organisation of the Parish Council's Climate Change Group and the hard work of a few local residents new wildlife whips have been added to the remaining gaps around Venn Ottery Green, to complete the boundary hedging.

The 20 metres of new hedging was a mixture of 14 different varieties such as hazel, hornbeam, birch, wild cherry, wild rose, blackthorn (perfect for Sloe Gin!), etc. All the hedging was native varieties, so perfect for improving bio-diversity and will be loved by the local wildlife and visitors to the green as they establish and bloom over the coming years.



Devon Wildlife Trust also kindly donated 6 x 106mm rootstock apple trees which will grow to about 10 - 12 feet tall (3m - 4m). Varieties are Farmers Glory (Cooker/Eater), Payhembury (Cider apple), Woolbrook Pippin (Cooker), Exeter Cross (Desert), Don's Delight (Cooker) and Whimble Wonder (Cooker). These join the two Laxton Superb (Cooker/Eater) recently planted and donated by VOSRA (again, supported by the kindness of Bowhayes Trees). We look forward to all eight trees establishing an avenue of apple trees for visitors and local residents to enjoy in future years.

The Parish Council's Climate Change Group have advised us of the following event, should you have the space and like to support the local environment by planting a tree in your garden:

FREE TREE GIVE AWAY

12 noon on Saturday 8th February at Newton Poppleford sports field pavilion

Christmas Carol Service at St Gregory's

St Gregory's looked particularly festive, thanks to the time and creativity of a few local residents, led by Judith, and the Carol concert held on the 20th December was enjoyed by many ... the mulled wine and mince pies too!! Thanks to everyone who made it all possible and helped us get into the festive spirit.



Contacting VOSRA If you wish to contact VOSRA, Jan or Andy will be happy to hear from you:

Jan Alden - Treasurer - mobile 07377 785809 - email address janicepalden@gmail.com

Andy Finch - Chair - mobile 07903 656235 - email address andy.finch1511@icloud.com

Jan, Denise, Malcolm, Chris, Herbie, Adrian and Andy



What a wonderful way to start the new year with a village wedding!



Camelia and Tobias
(Cami and Toby to you and me)
would like to say a big thank you
to our lovely welcoming and
helpful community. To everyone
who came and celebrated with
us and to everyone else who
couldn't make it. We are very
grateful and we couldn't be
more thankful.

Footnote: well done to *ring
bearer* Lily too for impeccable
canine behaviour on the big day.

Thought for the Times

This month brings Valentine's Day, a day for expressing love, maybe a day for a proposal of marriage. I am reminded of the old song:

*"Love and marriage, love and marriage,
go together like a horse and carriage."*

That in turn reminds me of an old saying, which at first appears to have nothing to do with love: *'Putting the cart before the horse.'*

I believe, though, that this saying has everything to do with love when we apply it to God's love, because, when it comes to God's love for us, many of us put the cart before the horse. Most of us find it difficult to love another person truly unconditionally. There are some, perhaps our closest relations, parents, children, grandchildren, who are given a lot of leeway. But I suspect that, much as we would like to think that we love unconditionally, it is hard to do it absolutely.

And for that reason, we do not really believe that another person could love us unconditionally - and maybe we are right to think that. When two people are first attracted to one another - and maybe thinking of Valentine's gifts and cards - they want to show the best version of themselves to the other.

What do we do when we hear someone talk about God as 'the God of love'? Perhaps we have been told, "God loves you." There are many Christian T-shirts, mugs and fridge-magnets with the slogan, "Smile, Jesus loves you." But what do we imagine it means?

If we are aware of even a few of God's commandments, it is easy to imagine that God would love me only if I obeyed all his commands. Or if we have an inkling that Jesus lived a perfect life and that God is holy, we might imagine that God would love me only if I lived a perfect life too.

Knowing that I do not obey all of God's commands all the time, and knowing that I am far, far from perfect, I might imagine that I need to change first and then come to God hoping that he will love me. This is putting the cart before the horse.

The cart before the horse is to try to change myself first and then to come to God to be loved by him.

The old saying works because we know that it is ridiculous to conceive of a cart pulling a horse. It is equally ridiculous to imagine that we can change ourselves in order to earn God's love. The correct way is to come to God now, just as I am, and know that he loves unconditionally. It is difficult for us to accept deep down in our guts that God welcomes us and loves us just as we are right now, but he does. Coming to God first and

allowing ourselves to be loved by him is to put the horse first, before the cart.

But the cart is still there. As I said, and as we all know, it is ridiculous to expect the cart to pull the horse; but we do expect the horse to pull the cart. Similarly, having put God's love for us first, we must expect that change will follow.

As we allow ourselves to be loved by God, and as we learn to love him, we will be changed. God loves us too much to leave us unchanged. He sees things in us that spoil our lives. He loves us, so it is in his nature not to love the things that make our lives worse. So being loved by God will certainly lead to change in our lives, but his love takes the lead and change follows, just like the horse and cart.

The word cart implies something a bit rough and ready. So let's end where we began - with a carriage. God's process of changing us is to make us a bit more like Jesus. Jesus had a perfect human character - a beautiful character - and God is moving us in that direction. None of us can ever claim to have reached the end of that process, but that's the direction. The cart is being made more like a beautiful carriage.

And to bring it full circle, one of the pictures the Bible uses to describe the relationship between God and his people is marriage. Christ is the bridegroom; his people are the bride. This marriage is like a horse and carriage, not like an old cart trying to pull a horse!

Happy St Valentine's Day,



Mark

Rev Mark Ward 01404 814282
revmarkward@btinternet.com

Friends of St John and St Gregory Club

1st (44) Barry Croud £30

2nd (87) David Bowyer £20

3rd (10) Jenny Sexty £15

Church News

Happy New Year everyone from all of us at Tipton with Venn Ottery Church. We hope that those of you who joined us for our special services through the Christmas period felt God's presence as we all, young and old, celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and also at the end of December, the contribution to the worldwide church of our patron, St John the Evangelist. We also had the joy of celebrating with Cami and Toby at their wedding on New Year's Day. Easter is relatively late this year so we have our usual pattern of services through February and March with the added treat of Mothering Sunday falling on March's fifth Sunday - see the Church Calendar here in Tipton Times for more details.

Annual Church Meeting

On the evening of **Monday 31st March** we will be holding our Annual Church Meeting when we will be reviewing what we have been doing throughout 2024 and electing church wardens and members of the Parochial Church Council. A copy of our 2024 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.

Café Church

In our December Café Church we looked at Mary and the visit to her by the angel Gabriel telling her she would be the mother of God's own son. At our January Café Church that son was already 30 years old and performing his first miracle, turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana. As well as looking at Jesus, the miracle maker, we celebrated marriage and some of us shared our wedding photos - surely they were all child brides? In February we will be looking at the words of blessing Jesus spoke at the Sermon on the Plain - yes, that's right! Luke's version of what in Matthew is the Sermon on the Mount is set on what is described as *a level place*. The important thing though is what Jesus said, so come along to find out. In March we'll be focusing on Psalm 27 in which King David expresses his trust in God and, in doing so, encourages us to do the same. We meet together, young and old and all ages in between, on the third Sunday of each month in the Community Hall for worship and fellowship over coffee and pastries - doors open at 10.30am and there'll be activities for ALL ages.

Lent Course

In February our Homegroup will continue meeting at 7.30pm each Thursday evening at David & Becky's home (address below) except for half-term week (20th February) when we'll take a break. Early in March the season of Lent begins and we traditionally spend time focusing on preparing to commemorate Jesus' final days leading up to his crucifixion and resurrection. So to help us, from 6th March onwards, we will be running a Lent Course jointly with Newton Poppleford church. The details have yet to be finalised so please get in touch if you want to be kept informed. All will be most welcome from any church or none.

Coffee Morning

After a New Year break the regular monthly coffee morning will be back on Saturday 1st February from 10am in the Community Hall. Do drop in, bring your friends and spend your money on the cake and book stalls. If you have any questions about what's happening in your church do please call or email me.

David Williamson, Licensed Lay Minister, Otter Vale Mission Community
St Mary's, Hayne Close, Tipton St John Tel. 01404 812493 Email davidhwililliamson@btinternet.com

Carol Singing

Many thanks to the group of adults and children who sang or knocked on doors on the evening of December 16th for our annual carol singing around the village - and particularly to David Williamson and Malcolm Hamilton who organised the singing on this occasion. We were very relieved that the weather conditions were dry and mild with the evening ending at the Community Hall for well-deserved mulled wine and mince pies.



As in previous years we were collecting for the world relief agency Tearfund and we raised a very rewarding £310 following a subsequent donation. This will assist this leading charity in its mission to tackle the causes and effects of poverty and the money has been gratefully received.

Thank you to all who contributed vocally and financially and apologies if we didn't get to your front door this time.

John & Pauline Belton

Tipton St John Cricket Club

New players welcome!

Although it's quite a long time until the start of the cricket season, our planning is well under way. Our first fixture is on Sunday April 20th but before then we will arrange net practices on the field, so look out for details and do come along if you're interested in playing some cricket in 2025. We only play friendly fixtures and welcome players of all abilities and levels of experience.

An excellent way of getting to know us would be to take part in our pre-season practice match on **Sunday April 13th**, which this year is being billed as Tipton St John CC v A Golden Lion Invitation XI. This will be an informal occasion and, we hope, a gentle introduction to the season ahead.

Look out for more details of these events in the next issue of Tipton Times, when we will publish details of all fixtures in April and May. 47 Sunday and midweek fixtures have been arranged so there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved.

Our annual tour to Cornwall has been arranged for the weekend of the **6th to 8th June** and places for this will need to be reserved by the end of February.

Sidmouth Indoor League

For a hardy few, cricket continues in the winter in the local indoor league. While the restricted space and speed of the game is more suited to fit young players, it enables more senior players to maintain a minimal level of match fitness and prevents ageing bodies from seizing up altogether - at least this is what I tell myself!

Following our highly successful showing before Christmas, we have begun this campaign with one victory against Uptottery and one defeat at the hands of Feniton.

David Birch (Chair) birch_david@outlook.com

*John Buckland in action
against Feniton*



Tipton St John FC

We now enter the second half of the season where we're nicely placed in 5th position and looking forward to finishing the season strongly. Since the last edition of Tipton Times we have played just 2 games, winning 6-1 away to Sidmouth 3rds and losing 2-0 away to Halwill. The shortage of games played is mostly down to the weather but we also had a break for Christmas and New Year.



As always we continue to improve the players' match day experience and this will increase further now with some brand new box goals being purchased via a grant from the Football Foundation and Devon Football Association. At this time of year we tend to get hit with hard frosts and unfortunately this has a big impact of the grass when walked over. There are a number of foot prints across the pitch that have been left when people walk across the pitch first thing in the morning. This kills the grass and leaves the pitch looking in a poor condition. It's difficult enough to keep the pitch looking good throughout the winter months but this just adds to what is a time consuming job anyway. I would politely ask if the pitch is frosty and if you're capable of walking around it, to please do so. We would like to add though that it is a small minority and we're thankful for the support and respect from all the people that walk around the pitch and stop to give positive feedback. Your kind comments really are very much appreciated.

Here's to a successful second half of the season!!

Kevin Sexton



Community Hall

Our pre-Christmas Quiz was attended by a record 14 teams which meant we needed to make use of the stage to fit everyone in. Our thanks go to quiz-masters Paul Kinson and also to Brian Rice for running the one in January. Our last two quizzes of the current season will be on Sundays **2nd March** and **6th April** starting at **7pm**.

As I mentioned in the last edition, Jane Gibson has now taken over from my wife, Pauline, as our Booking Clerk and you will find her contact details below.

This is my last Tipton Times contribution as Chairman so I would like to take this opportunity to say that it has been a privilege to be closely involved with the management of the Hall for the past 21 years working with many different trustee colleagues on hundreds of maintenance jobs as well as several large building projects (in particular the addition of the Small Hall in 2008) - which have enhanced the premises by greatly improving the facilities for all our users.

It's a much-loved village asset which has been here for over 110 years, and we all hope it will continue to thrive for many more years to come. I wish Brian Rice all the best as he takes over as Chairman with effect from 1st February.

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



Firstly, I must take this opportunity to thank John and Pauline, on behalf of the committee and everyone in the village, for all the hard work for over 20 years. I can't imagine where we would be today without all their efforts.

As we move forward I am delighted to advise that we have got an excellent team in place and we will all work very hard to maintain, or even improve, everything both for the Community Hall and the

village. As the saying goes "Teamwork makes the Dream Work" and we will do our best to ensure this is the case.

Brian Rice (01404 811396 or 07810 302480) or email: rice196@btinternet.com



Community Hall Booking Clerk

Mrs Jane Gibson

email **tsjcommunityhall@gmail.com**

mobile phone
07480 670050



Table Tennis is good for you!

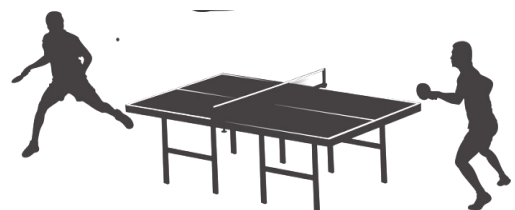
We meet in the Community Hall from **7.30 - 9.30pm**.

£2.50 per session, which includes tea or coffee.

Our next dates are on **Mondays**

February 10th and 24th

March 10th and 24th



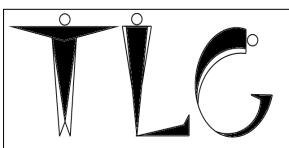
Tipton Tennis Club

A bit chilly cycling home from Exeter this evening, but that didn't stop a hardy bunch of Tipton Tennis Club members turning out for club night. When I passed, both courts were in action under the floodlights. It has been a really good winter season for the club so far. The winter men's team have been reporting win after win against some strong clubs from much bigger places than Tipton. At the time of writing they are second in Division 2, only 6 points behind leaders Willand, although we have played one more match. We drew 4 - 4 with Willand just before Christmas - very tight at the top! The mixed team has also been storming through the season and at the time of writing they are second in Division 4, with two games in hand compared to leaders, David Lloyd. Well done all.



Many of our members enjoy a winter game of tennis, but sometimes winter is also the time to get indoors for a bit of a social, too. The club is planning a skittles evening with buffet supper at the Royal British Legion Club in West Hill on **Saturday 15th February**. The cost is only £10 per head to include the buffet. Non-members and families are very welcome, so if you would like to join us, meet club members and see whether the club might be for you, why not come along. Please note that Juniors under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Please email the club at tiptontennisclub@gmail.com to let us know if you would like to come as we do need to confirm numbers. Please also let us know any dietary requirements or allergies - vegetarian options will be included automatically and the caterer is happy to cater for any other requirements as long as she knows. Hope to see you there, member or not!

Ken Mylne Chair



On Monday we were lucky enough to welcome Sheila Parker to Tipton Ladies Group. Sheila talked to us about her time as a Tiller Girl and how she went on to become a Vernon Girl.

Sheila delivered a riveting talk, full of funny anecdotes and memories, which included some famous names. She grew up in Liverpool, across the street from the McCartney family. Sheila knew that she wanted to be a Tiller from the age of 7, when she went to her first pantomime, starring Dickie Valentine. She was mesmerised by the dancers and told her mum that that was what she wanted to be when she grew up.

Sheila started dance lessons and shortly after performing a solo in the local nativity, which happened to include young Paul and Mike McCartney as shepherds, and she began singing lessons having been encouraged to do so by the vicar. As her parents couldn't afford the steep cost of the singing lessons, 10 shillings per hour, her dance teacher paid for them for four years.

Sheila became a Tiller Girl just before her 15th Birthday and moved to London. She then auditioned to become a Vernon Girl and got her dream job at 16 years old.

It was a joy to hear all of Sheila's stories of her life on stage and television, as well as an insight into the real people behind very famous faces, including Cliff Richard and Billy Fury.

We can't wait to have Sheila back for the second part of her talk - watch this space for information on when she is coming back!



Eleanor Kinson

Farewell to Franky and Michelle

Come and celebrate 22 years at the Golden Lion with us for drinks only on our last trading night, **Saturday 22nd February from 6pm.**

We moved into the Golden Lion in April 2003 with our 5-year-old twins. That weekend, we opened on the Thursday night for drinks and started with our basic French style menu of 5 choices of starters, mains and puddings. We had all the family and a few friends as staff and were overwhelmed by the welcome from this fantastic village we had become part of.



We quickly expanded the menu and started quiz nights, theme nights through the winter months, Christmas village dinner, Christmas day drinks, Jazz in the summer, takeaway fish and chips on a Tuesday when the van stopped coming, Keith the pub singer who would sometimes dress up as Elvis on a Friday night together with our infamous New Year's Eve dress up parties. We loved taking part in the village Olympics and the Tug of War at the fete every year and put on some fireworks at a couple of bonfire nights.

The Golden Lion: from 2003 to 2025

We have truly loved being part of this warm and friendly village and whilst we are so looking forward to retiring it is tinged with the sadness of leaving this magical village of ours. Luckily, we will only be moving a couple of miles down the road and hopefully we will still see you when we are walking Reggie or maybe popping in for a drink!

We wish Annie, Esme and Julian the very best wishes in becoming custodians of the Golden Lion and hope they have as much enjoyment from running it as we did.

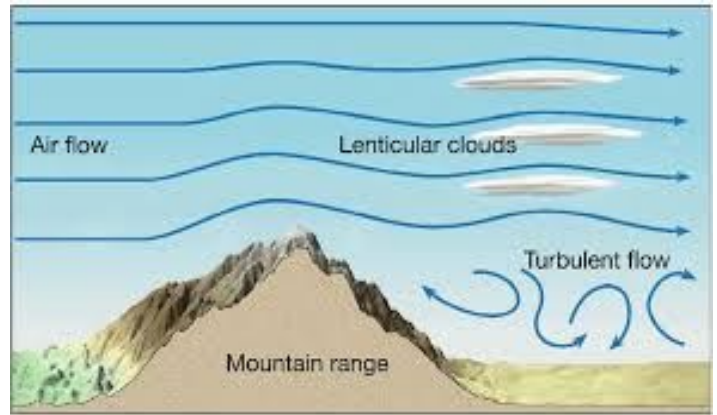
Franky and Michelle



Tipton Times Weather

Happy New Year! We travelled to the Scottish Borders for new year with our daughter. Apart from enjoying some beautiful snowy walks, we were also treated to two sitings of one of my favourite types of cloud - altocumulus lenticularis.

Lenticularis means lens-shaped, and lenticularis clouds have a very distinctive shape - they hang in the sky separate from any other clouds, shallow at the edges and thickening smoothly to the middle from both sides. It is quite common to get several of them one above the other, leading to the popular name of *pile of plates*. The photo shown is very typical of what you might see in the UK, although sometimes they can be much more spectacular - New Zealand is famous for them.



Credit: Science Photo Library

My first siting in Scotland surprised me. It was a very windy day and clouds were scudding fast across the sky but then I spotted a lenticularis below the main clouds. I thought this was very strange because lenticularis don't move across the sky - then after watching for a minute or two I realised that, unlike the rest of the clouds, this one was indeed staying in the same place, just as it should! So what causes these beautiful formations and why don't they move?

It was important that it was a windy day, because lenticularis are indeed caused by strong winds, when they blow over hills or mountains in the right conditions. You may know that when the air is warm near the surface and much colder aloft this leads to convection, where bubbles of warm air accelerate upwards and form shower clouds and thunderstorms. Lenticularis forms when exactly the opposite happens, when air aloft is relatively warm compared to the air below. (It is still colder, but just less so than normal!). In this case the air is what we call 'stable' - if it is forced to rise then the temperature difference forces it back down again - so it wants to return to its original height. When strong wind forces air to rise over mountains, it forms a wave in the atmosphere, rising up but then descending again beyond the mountain. Now if that air is nearly saturated, when it is forced to rise, it cools, becomes saturated and cloud forms - then, when it descends again, the cloud evaporates again giving that beautiful lenticularis shape. The diagram above illustrates how this works. It means you can see that wave in the atmosphere just the same as you can see a wave on the surface of the sea. Sometimes the cloud forms directly over the mountains, but often the waves continue for some distance downstream of the mountains, as shown in the diagram. On a good day you might see consecutive waves each with their tell-tale clouds. The cloud remains static because the mountains don't move! It also means that although it looks as though the cloud is static, hanging in the air, it is actually forming and dissipating continuously in front of your eyes as the air flows in one side, forms cloud, and then flows out again the other side. This also demonstrates how cloud can form and dissipate very quickly as the air pressure changes - although there is an even better demonstration of that which you can see if you take a window seat on a plane just behind the wings - when the plane flies through near-saturated air you can see cloud forming on the wings in a fraction of a second!

The second lenticularis we saw was on our way home driving down the M6 and had a quite different shape. The wind was from the NNE, blowing across the Pennines to us at an angle to the mountains, so the wave formed a long, narrow cloud stretching many miles across the sky. Lenticularis can form many strange and beautiful shapes. I chose a fairly standard one for the photo, but why not Google altocumulus lenticularis images to see some really beautiful examples.

Ken Mylne



Tipton Readers

The November read for the Tipton readers was the 2022 Booker Prize-winner *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida* by Shehan Karunatilaka.

Colombo, 1990. Maali Almeida, a war photographer, gambler, and closet queen, has woken up dead in what seems like a celestial visa office. His dismembered body is sinking in the Beira Lake and he has no idea who killed him. In a country where scores are settled by death squads, suicide bombers and hired goons, the list of suspects is

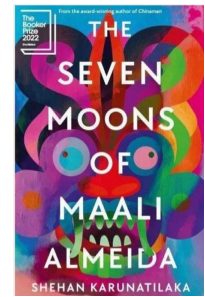
depressingly long, as the ghouls and ghosts with grudges who cluster round can attest. But even in the afterlife, time is running out for Maali. He has seven moons to contact the man and woman he loves most and lead them to the photos that will rock Sri Lanka and to find out who has killed him and why.

The novel is set in 1989, six years into the Sri Lankan Civil War and is about a photojournalist, Maali Almeida, who has been working for various news agencies and has accumulated a number of photographs he is planning to publish to the world to show many of the atrocities that had been going on since the conflict began, some of them identifying government ministers and death squads.

The opening of the novel is quite complex. Trying to get to grips with the concept of the different characters and their motives in the afterlife and of this 'In Between' that Maali has found himself in: some trying to get him to remain in the in-between as a ghoul or spirit and some urging him towards 'The Light', loss of all memory of his past life and to a possible rebirth. In both Hindu and Buddhist cultures there is this period between death and rebirth that appears to equate to this 'in-between' period. Once this part is understood the novel moves through the seven moons with the reader learning more about Maali's life and Maali learning more about his last few hours and his death. As the story moves on the pace quickens towards the final moon. Maali does find out who killed him, and why, and then at the end of his seven moons he makes his decision as to whether he should enter the Light or stay in the In-Between.

A lot of the narrative is in the second person which is quite a powerful way of describing to both the reader and to Maali what has occurred.

This novel is a sort of 'marmite' book. Some of the group loved it, some didn't like it and some were ambivalent, but it did provoke a lot of discussion, particularly on the events of the Sri Lankan Civil War (which lasted for 25 years) and its numerous atrocities. With scores ranging from 3 to 8.5 the average score came out at 7 out of 10.



The A B C Murders by Agatha Christie

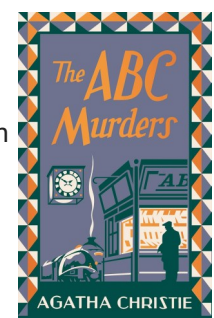
What could have been better for the Christmas read than a good old Agatha Christie murder mystery? We have read quite a few complex novels recently and this was like putting on a comfy pair of slippers as we were treated to a traditional murder mystery with lots of red herrings and twists but relatively little direct depiction of violence.

In *The ABC Murders*, the famous private detective, Hercule Poirot, is involved in a cat and mouse game with a serial killer, someone who warns in advance where and when he will strike, taunting the Belgian hero after each murder that he has failed to catch him and is past his prime. Each warning letter is signed A B C: at each murder scene a brand-new copy of an ABC Railway Guide is found and the murder location and victim alphabetically sequenced ... the murderer certainly knows his alphabet.

Having begun with Andover, Bexhill and then Churston, there seems little chance of the murderer being caught. However as each crime is committed Poirot, the Scotland Yard detectives and the reader are being fed information about friends, family and colleagues of the victims, and of an epileptic travelling salesman ... Alexander Bonaparte Cust. Things come to a head in Doncaster and the police make a confident arrest. Are they correct or will Poirot's little niggle of doubt lead to further twists? Or is he really now, as the murderer said, past his prime?

This was an easy read with just enough pace and complexity to keep it interesting. Overall score 6.8

Chris Startup



Mo Mylne

Nathanael Scott-Perry

For those who don't know you, Nathanael, what is your link to Tipton?

Well I grew up in Tipton (Metcombe Vale) and went to the primary school in the village, as well as the local cubs and scouts and the Chill Out Youth Club run by Rev Mark Ward. I then went to the King's School in Ottery St. Mary. Tipton is a place near to my heart and somewhere I love coming back to with my family. It is quite different from Birmingham, and I love waking up to the sound of birds when I am here.

After school you sort of ran away to sea! What did you do and what did you take from that?

I joined Operation Mobilisation (OM) a Christian charity and worked on the ship MV Logos Hope as a Deckhand for two years. The ship is the largest floating library in the world and, as I write, this is in Trinidad and Tobago. It is where I met Rhenz, who is now my wife, when we both joined in Malaysia. The ship was an amazing and challenging experience and quite formative in my walk with God; seeing people from 65 nationalities worshipping God and working together, it was like a glimpse into heaven.

We got married in the Philippines in 2018 and lived there for a while. Then I had to come back to the UK to earn enough money for the spouse visa. During that time, I worked in the Lidl's warehouse in Exeter in the freezer. Then when Rhenz arrived in the UK in 2020 we moved to Birmingham and I started a degree in Applied Theology with Moorlands Bible College, as well as a placement with Birmingham City Mission working a lot with the rough sleepers in the city.



Rhenz and I now have two amazing children, Josiah who turns 3 in January and Ethan who will be 1 in February. Rhenz has just passed her driving test and works as a nurse in a hospital and a convent.

What are you up to now?

I graduated in November last year but in my last two years I had a placement with Agapé UK working in their humanitarian aid branch called Global Aid Network (GAIN). We help facilitate and provide a hands-on response to poverty and crisis with the aim of revealing hope and restoring life to people. Now I have finished the degree, I have a full-time job with them helping people in poverty in the UK and abroad. Something that drew me to GAIN was that all the aid is appropriate and relevant. It is not going to a country or community where you never know what happens to it. For example, our partners in places like Ukraine or Serbia can say "we have too many women's trousers, we need more men's shorts", or "we need children's shoes and less jacket ...". Also, they partner with over 30 UK-based charities/organisations like Safe Families, Clothing Coventry, Let's Feed Brum, Migrant Help, the Jason Robinson Foundation etc. - so people's support actually can have a large ripple effect.

My main role is working in our Relief team in our warehouse in Birmingham City Centre, which is called The Involvement Centre, as networking is a core part of GAIN. I help lead a number of packing sessions each week, some with refugee volunteers from Ukraine, people from offices, Churches or communities nearby. There we quality check the clothes, hygiene products, bedding and shoes, sort everything by size, sex and age, then pack the boxes ready to go to UK partners or abroad. I also help coordinate the pick-up of orders ready to go to UK-based charities, and collections from more than 20 collection points around the UK, from Orkney to Cambridge.



There are two other areas of GAIN: firstly, our Disaster Assistance and Response Team (DART) work worldwide and when a crisis happens, like the Türkiye/Syria earthquake, they will go and help with trauma counselling, making shelters, getting medicine, food and water in, etc; and second, we have our Water for Life projects, the main one the UK office is involved in is in Benin - in October last year our team went there for 10 days to dig new deep-capped wells in villages with no running water and visit partners where wells had already been dug. The difference clean water makes cannot be overstated.

How can people in Tipton help you in your role?

Now that I'm full time, my first job before I go back to work in person is fundraising. Or what we call Ministry Partnership Development (MPD). Everyone from the CEO to the newest people like me have to raise their own

salary on a monthly basis, currently I am on about 70%! God has been helping me see fundraising not as a necessary evil in order to do the 'real' ministry, but to see it as a ministry in and of itself. Since June/July last year I have regularly been encouraged by the friendships, love, kindness and generosity of people up and down the country; and abroad. In fact, people are partnering with us financially in the UK, Australia, Thailand, and Taiwan. As well as considering becoming a financial partner, people in Tipton can help by donating clothes, etc to GAIN, becoming a collection point, being a prayer partner, or even volunteering with GAIN on trips to Romania or Benin, for example. We have family newsletters you can sign up to and we have a family giving page where people can sign up to be financial partners, and gift aid it if they are able. I see MPD as God's children working together to ensure our Father's resources are used in the best possible way, to spread the knowledge of His glory.

Much love to you all,
Nathanael and Rhenz Scott-Perry

Links

Family Giving Page <https://give.agape.org.uk/nathanael-scott-perry/>

GAIN UK website <https://www.globalaidnetwork.org.uk>

Agapé UK website <https://www.agape.org.uk>

Latest family newsletter
<https://mailchi.mp/0016b7396c54/scott-perry-newsletter-december-2024>

Sue Kensdale, Tipton Times Collator

Susan Kensdale, a resident (family member) at Sundial Care Home in Tipton St John, played a significant role in the community, as a volunteer collator for the local magazine, *Tipton Times*.

Before settling into life in Tipton St John 20 years ago, Sue lived in Sidmouth where she had her son and enjoyed a long, fulfilling career as a Legal Cashier, where she worked for 24 years. Sue said she was "*one of the family*" there, and that's the reason she enjoyed it so much. As retirement approached, she decided to relocate to the village of Tipton St. John, seeking a quieter life.



In 2006, shortly after her retirement, Sue's journey with the *Tipton Times* began when she was recruited by her next-door neighbour who happened to be one of the editors. Wanting to stay active and connected to the community, Sue welcomed the new opportunity. Little did she know, this would lead to 12 fulfilling years as a collator for the local publication, a role that she held until she stepped down in 2021.

As a collator, Sue took on the behind-the-scenes task of assembling the magazine by hand. "*After the editors finished with the stories and printed them, a half-dozen of us would sit around a table, spending three to four hours putting all the pages together,*" she recalls. The work was steady and methodical, but it was also rewarding, especially with the companionship it created amongst the volunteers.

Through her years at the *Tipton Times*, Sue found herself immersed in the stories of her community. While she doesn't recall any particular moment as a standout, she treasures the hours spent sifting through local news. "*It was always good to spend time with the team and read through the stories,*" she says.

Now in her quieter years and living at Sundial Care Home, she has developed a love for audiobooks, which are regularly delivered to her by a volunteer from the library in Ottery St Mary. She also likes to watch television in the afternoons and spends time with the team she has built close relationships with. Sue is also a proud grandmother to two grandchildren.

While Sue's work with the *Tipton Times* may be behind her, her contributions to the community remain an important part of her life. The friendships she made and the stories that were shared whilst collating are fondly remembered, highlighting the importance of volunteering and the simple joy of being part of something bigger than oneself.

Originally published in *The Carer*, a digital magazine for nursing and residential care homes.

Garden news

So these wintry months don't always entice us outside but it doesn't mean gardening needs to stop - there are house plants to tend and care for and I also have all my succulents in the front porch that are producing flowers as we speak. I've written about succulents before, but houseplants are part of a love hate relationship for me and I have tended to leave them well alone, which is probably why I don't have much success with them!



Having said that, there are some plants that benefit from having less intervention - I have a Stephanotis plant given to me by a friend three years ago and I have managed to make it flower twice more after being given it in full bloom. I can honestly say I give it a good slug of water very infrequently and it seems to carry on growing and blooming. I also have a spiky-leaved plant that my daughter took to university over 15 years ago and we have kept it through inattentive care. This is where it ends for house plants and me, other than the odd spider plant. But I know many people really love them and this is the time to be sprucing them up, getting rid of dead leaves and repotting to bring on a wonderful display throughout the year.

House plants made a resurgence during the pandemic especially for those trapped indoors. Plants bring interest and texture to the indoors but not only do they look amazing (if you care for them well) they are very beneficial. They improve air quality and circulation and generally make us feel better. The trend is still ongoing and many people group plants together to create an indoor jungle and others choose a statement plant to display on its own. The resurgence of macrame plant holders has also helped the indoor plant market and there are some amazing plants that will happily hang down from a well-knotted basket.

I have done some research to see if I could increase my stock and make a bit more of a success of indoor gardening. Here they are:



An Anthurium would be nice for some flower and colour, and they also have lush green foliage.



Plants from the Alocasia family have beautiful texture and defined veins.



And to trail from that macrame hanging basket what about a Hoya which, if you can get them to flower, will have a beautiful scent but with the disadvantage of a lot of stickiness from those dewy, honeyed flowers.

Happy indoor gardening !

Alison Stevens

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



The impact of so called ‘Devolution’

The Government’s White Paper on Devolution issued just before Christmas will mean the scrapping of District Councils and County Councils. They are to be replaced instead with unitary authorities. These new unitary authorities are to have a minimum of 500,000 residents although it is not exactly clear why this is deemed by the government to be the appropriate number of residents.

These proposals will result in a significant change here in Devon. I can see that there are some advantages of having all services provided by a single unitary authority rather than the current two-tier system with the services split between District and County Councils. However, I believe that any such advantages are going to be massively outweighed by the loss of local decision-making, and the cost and disruption that is set to ensue. Devon is to be carved up in some way, possibly into two very large unitary authorities. The transition to the new unitary authorities is likely to suck the energy out of critical issues such as improving our local services, climate change and the environment.

There is no consensus in Devon about the geographic boundaries of these new unitary authorities and there is also uncertainty about whether the scheduled County Council elections will go ahead in May. Conservative-led Devon County Council voted earlier this month to try and postpone the County Council elections (I voted against the postponement along with other opposition members). The District Councils including East Devon, however, have written to the Government asking that the elections go ahead on the basis that no agreement about the form of unitary councils will have been decided by then. The decision about whether the elections are going ahead will be made by the Government.

Tipton School

I continue to press EDDC to bring forward its report on Community Infrastructure Levy as there has been a bid from DCC to this fund for feasibility studies on sites within Tipton. In addition, the draft EDDC local plan is due to go out to public consultation later this month and a site is allocated in the draft plan for a school at Otter Close. This is the final public consultation before the local plan moves to examination by a Planning Inspector.

20 mph for Tipton St John and Wiggaton

I have successfully helped Ottery St Mary obtain a 20mph speed limit throughout the town, which is in the process of being implemented. At the January Town Council meeting we discussed other areas which may wish also to have a 20mph speed limit - including potentially Tipton St John and Wiggaton. The town council does not have to fund the implementation of the scheme in Ottery itself because it scored very highly on DCC’s matrix of factors. Whilst Tipton and Wiggaton may not score as highly on this matrix, it is possible for Town and Parish Councils to fund the implementation of schemes themselves. I suggested the Town Council investigates the costs of doing so for Tipton and Wiggaton. I will fully support Tipton and Wiggaton as the Devon County Councillor with any speed reduction scheme.

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

West Hill Men’s Supper Club

We meet on the second Monday of each month in Narthex Hall, which is attached to St Michael’s Church in Bendarroch Road. We invite a wide variety of speakers with subjects encompassing science, the arts, history, sport and a range of life experiences.

Our evenings start at 6.45pm for drinks followed by a two course dinner provided by a local caterer. The meal is then followed by a talk. The current charge is £25 per person which includes drinks, meal and speaker costs.

The talks arranged for the next four months:

- 10th Feb: “Inside Out” - 30 years a Prison Chaplain
- 10th Mar: The Yeoman of the Guard
- 7th Apr: Exeter Cathedral, Current Works
- 12th May: The Engineer Isambard K. Brunel

Visitors or prospective members are welcome. If you are interested in coming for a taster evening or finding out more about us, please contact John Rowland at j.v.rowland@btinternet.com or 01404 813027.

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



Since I first became a Town Councillor, I have heard from locals and been very aware of the maintenance issues along our parish roads and pavements. On this issue I'm pleased to say that Ottery Town Council has voted to support creating the role of a parish lengthsman in principle. This is good news because, unlike the work of the County Council road team in reacting to problems, a lengthsman serves proactively, helping to keep problems along our local roads from getting worse.

I have found that the role of a parish lengthsman isn't well-known to some folks. Historically a lengthsman was a person tasked with keeping a length of road neat, tidy and passable. As you can imagine, in a parish like ours this can add up to a fair amount of work.

The Town Council is figuring out the scope of the role and its funding. Many of the issues with our small country roads are felt by people trying to get to their work, to the shops, or pick up their kids. I think that the benefits to the parish of this role will be a good step towards helping to make things better.

Feel free to get in touch with my Tipton Ward Co-Councillor Janice, or myself.

Cllr Matt Williamson

Tel: 07840 237161

Email:

mattwilliamson@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Janice Aherne

Tel: 07508 308569

Email:

Janice.Aherne@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk



OTTERY ST MARY
TOWN COUNCIL

Ottery St Mary Town Council met to discuss a range of local issues. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Aherne and Stewart. The Planning Committee and Finance Committee met during

December. Copies of the agendas and minutes for these meetings can be found on the Council website.

EDDC Councillor Faithfull reported the publication of the new National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) with increased housing targets, and discussed responses to the Government Devolution White Paper. EDDC voted against supporting DCC's decision to delay May elections. Written reports were received from EDDC Councillors Johns and Collins. DCC Councillor Bailey confirmed that it is expected that the 20mph scheme for Ottery town is to be installed in February/March. There is no update regarding the Tipton St John Primary School. Cllr Bailey reported that DCC voted to delay the May elections and feels that there should be elections.

Grants were approved for OSM Foodbank (£750) and OSM Football Club (£2,000). A request from Ottery Feoffee Charity was declined. A £25,000 budget was set for grants. Banking resolutions included maintaining £85,000 in a Barclays savings account, transferring £85,000 to a 90-day notice account, and moving remaining funds to a Public Sector Deposit Fund.

The 2025/26 budget and Precept were approved.

Resident concerns about North Street were noted. DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer will visit the site with Councillor Bailey and Town Council representatives.

Terms of Reference were approved for the Cycle and Pedestrian Access Working Group and Engaging with Younger Community Members Working Group were approved and the first meetings will be arranged later this month.

Financial reports for December 2024 were approved.

Correspondence included updates on Coleridge Bridge repairs, requests for 20mph zones in surrounding areas, and concerns from Gittisham Parish Council about the EDDC Draft Local Plan.

The Mayor reported attending various events, including the Ottery Writers Awards and EDDC strategic planning meeting.

The Clerk emphasised the importance of Councillor training.

Future Full Council meeting dates:

Monday 3 rd February 2025	Council Offices
Monday 3 rd March 2025	Council Offices
Monday 7 th April 2025	Council Offices

Council Precept Increase for 2025/26

The Council has increased the Precept for 2025/26 to ensure that it fully covers the running costs of the Council, which it has not done for several years. In light of the ongoing uncertainty in local government, the Council believes this step is essential to maintain current services and invest in the parish's future.

This increase will be 18p per week for an average Band D property, meaning the new rate will be £105.86 per year, the equivalent of £2.03 each week. While this represents a 9.5% rise, the Council remains committed to delivering valuable services and projects that benefit the community. The Precept will enable the Council to:

- Continue youth provision at the Station Hub.
- Maintain grounds and green spaces around the town.
- Manage its property portfolio, including the Council Offices, Station Hub, Library, Museum, Strawberry Lane sports facilities, Skatepark, Winters Lane tennis courts, Higher Ridgeway allotments, and Cemetery.
- Continue to work to promote Ottery St Mary outside of the parish to help support the vast array of independent businesses.
- Using Community Grants, continue to support voluntary organisations with their various projects at a time when it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure external funding.

The Council currently employs two staff members to provide daily support for the parish. The Council is currently evaluating the financial and operational benefits of employing someone to carry out a range of maintenance and caretaking duties across the Council estate.

Looking ahead, the Council remains focused on implementing its priority regeneration projects that have been shaped following a number of public consultation events. This coming year the Council plan to commence the development of a new Neighbourhood Plan and open a PlayZone at Strawberry Lane. Additionally, the recent purchase of Christmas lights will help reduce annual costs from Year 3 onwards. The Council will be working with the parish to ensure that £162,000 of Section 106 money allocated to open spaces is spent to benefit the community. This Precept increase reflects the Council's commitment to delivering essential services and improvements for the benefit of the entire parish.

Useful dates:

Citizens Advice at Council Offices every Tuesday from 9.30am until 11.30am (subject to volunteer availability) or telephone 01395 265070

Allotments for Rent - Spaces Available Soon!

Looking for a place to grow your own fruit, vegetables, and flowers? Our allotments along Higher Ridgeway currently have a **short waiting list**, meaning you could get started soon.

Why Rent an Allotment with Us?

Ideal Growing Conditions: Fertile soil and plenty of sunlight.

Convenient Location: Easily accessible for local gardeners.

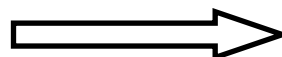
Community Atmosphere: Join a friendly and supportive gardening community.

Affordable Rates: Competitive pricing for all sizes of plots.

Accessible Plot Available: We have a specially-designed accessible plot for gardeners with mobility challenges.

Whether you're an experienced gardener or just starting out, our allotments offer the perfect space to nurture your green thumb. Don't miss out on this opportunity to grow your own food and enjoy the outdoors!

Can you help Tipton Village School?



Ottery St Mary Town Council *continued*

How Would You Spend £162,000 on Public Open Spaces in Ottery St Mary parish?

Residents, community groups, and organisations in the Parish of Ottery St Mary are invited to submit their ideas on how £162,000 should be spent on improving public open spaces. This can be on one, or multiple projects.

Section 106 funds are contributions that developers make as part of the agreement for housing developments in Ottery. The funds can only be used for specific purposes.

Ottery St Mary Town Council and East Devon District Council are committed to ensuring that local residents and organisations have a direct say in how the money is spent.

The funding can be used for a variety of projects, ranging from the creation of brand new facilities to enhancing existing facilities including parks, play areas, community orchards, sports pitches and associated equipment, allotments, multi-use games areas, skate parks, pump tracks, trim trails and lots more!

Guidelines for Submitting Proposals:

- Proposals must be for new or improved facilities.
- Only permanent facilities and equipment will be considered (e.g. football goals, tennis courts, or training areas). Funds cannot be used for portable equipment.
- The proposed facilities must be open and accessible to the public. A modest fee may be charged, but it must be affordable.

The funding cannot be used for buildings, indoor sports facilities or professional sports grounds.

All proposals should be submitted to Ottery St Mary Town Council by noon, 27th February 2025. Submissions should include your name, contact details, a brief description of your idea, and an estimate of the funding required, if possible. There's no need to submit a fully developed plan; a simple paragraph outlining your idea is sufficient. The council may contact you if more details are needed.

Please send your proposals by email to admin@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk, or by post to:

Section 106 Ideas

Ottery St Mary Town Council
8 Broad Street
Ottery St Mary
Devon EX11 1BZ

Once the deadline for submissions has passed, Ottery St Mary Town Council will work with East Devon District Council to assess eligibility and feasibility of all the proposals. There will then be another opportunity for the community to review the shortlist of projects to determine which projects will be selected for funding. Deputy Mayor, Councillor John Green said "It's vital that residents have a say in how these funds are allocated, particularly as new developments have been built in their area. I would encourage everyone in Ottery St Mary to share their ideas for public open space projects. This is a real opportunity to help shape the way forward for the town. Your input can have a real impact, and by contributing your suggestions, you can help ensure that the funding is directed towards the projects that are most important to the community."

For more information, please contact Ottery St Mary Town Council (contact details below)

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 www.otterystmary-tc.gov.uk where you can view agendas and minutes for all Council and Committee Meetings, together with news and updates.

Kerry Kennell

We are looking for someone who might be willing to volunteer to lead singing practices at the school from the end of February (after half term holidays - Monday 24th Feb). This would entail about a half hour whole school practice one day of the week (can be flexible on which day and when), plus potentially some other slots too if possible. It would suit someone who has the skills to sing/play an instrument to lead on (staff can manage the children etc). We have access to a piano but any other instrument would need to come with you!

Thanks



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

RSPB Aylesbeare Common



Happy New Year from everyone at RSPB Aylesbeare Common. It's been a rather stormy and unpredictable winter so far, but that hasn't stopped us from carrying out the bulk of our winter work, that being the clearing of trees like birch and willow in order to keep the heathland open. Preventing the succession of the heathland into woodland is important for the conservation of a number of rare species that depend on it, from year-round residents like the Dartford warbler to summer visitors like the nightjar. The material created from the removal of these trees can't be allowed to remain on the heath, as one of its defining characteristics is the poor quality of its soils and so, as much as possible is taken to be used either for firewood that is sold locally, or to create bundles of brash. These bundles can then go on to be used for natural flood management to slow down watercourses across the catchment, which will benefit both us and the wildlife that depend on the streams.



The surprisingly unseasonal November snowfall and following storms Bert and Daragh had quite an impact on mature trees across the UK, and the same is true across our reserves, too. Quite a considerable amount of work has had to be carried out to ensure that the reserves

are safe and stock-proof, hanging limbs have been removed and fence lines cleared. While this can often look brutal and unsightly in the short term, the veteranisation of these trees creates microhabitats which harbour an astonishing degree of biodiversity - dead wood of all tree species is often relied upon by far many more species than may be associated with any living individual.

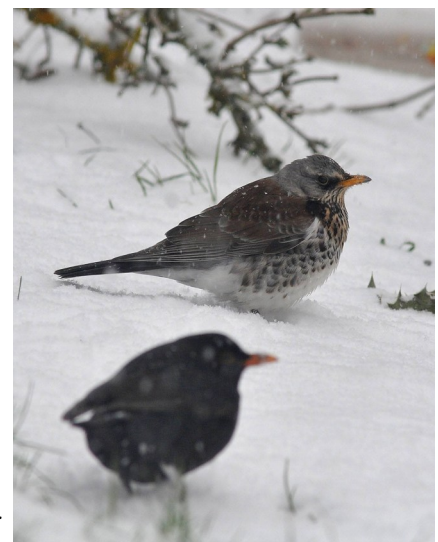
Just before Christmas, most of the Exmoor and Dartmoor ponies that graze our reserves were returned to their winter haunt at Aylesbeare common, their location often visible by the stark contrast of a few grey coats against heather, gorse and purple moor grass. The service these hardy ponies provide to the heathland is invaluable to its management - as they graze and browse they help to promote a greater degree of biodiversity in the flora of the reserve, as well as control the spread of grasses which could overtake the heather that is such a ubiquitous element of heathland. These ponies are regularly checked and fed by the staff and volunteers here so they can stay in top shape for all the important work that they are doing.

Just like the rest of the year there are plenty of migrations happening across the country, both from within and without. During the winter, species like marsh and hen harriers migrate to seasonal roosting grounds by the coast, along with kingfishers, who often journey to the coast in the winter in search of better fishing prospects. The numbers of other resident species such as robins, blackbirds or goldcrest are also swelled by migrants from continental Europe and Scandinavia, in search of a milder climate, and along with them come our solely winter visitors like redwing or fieldfare.

Data on these species is collected by volunteers on our monthly winter bird surveys, which follow a transect set around Aylesbeare common, and tally up the birds that are spotted while walking this route which, this year, has included sightings of kingfisher, kestrel, Dartford warbler, firecrest, fieldfare, woodpeckers and much more. Some very tenacious volunteers have also been conducting hen harrier roost watches, which involve standing out on the heath as dusk approaches, watching for any birds that might be coming down into the heathland for the night. While hen harriers are rare in Devon, several other raptor species have been observed on these watches, along with tawny owls.

Even though winter can seem bleak and dark, there is still so much life and activity going on throughout the winter, especially on wonderful bits of lowland heath such as Aylesbeare common.

Fieldfare and blackbird



Devon Tithe Maps and Apportionments

Have you ever wondered about the history of the particular space you now live in? Who occupied it and what sort of building (if any) was there nearly 200 years ago? Some years ago, we featured the tithe map of our area from 1845 and we thought it was worth revisiting it for the benefit of new readers.



The tithe map for our area and list of apportionments (basically a record of landowners and tenants for each plot) is available via the Devon Historic Environment page on the county council website. To access the map and list, follow this link: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/historicenvironment/tithe-map/>.

- In the search box, scroll down and select 'Ottery St Mary 1' and click submit.
- Look for the 'Tithe Apportionment Transcription' towards the bottom of the page; click on and download the PDF which lists all the recorded plots and properties in the area. Scroll down to page 33, where the list of Tipton, Metcombe and Fluxton plots begins.
- Further down the page you'll see a small brown square - this is the original tithe map. Move it into the centre of the page with your cursor and then enlarge it with the + button at the top left.
- Tipton is towards the lower central part of the map - you should recognise it by the shape of the river and road system. Note how the appearance of the village has changed. Of course, there are far more dwellings now on what used to be open fields and orchards. Intriguingly, some buildings marked are no longer there.
- You will see that every plot is numbered; these numbers correspond to the numbers on the PDF.

Unfortunately, the separate map showing Venn Ottery is very small and almost indecipherable, but you can find it and the apportionment list by searching for 'Venn Ottery' instead of 'Ottery St Mary 1'. Of course, it is possible to search for other places in Devon by entering their names in the search box.

David Birch

Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*.

The Ottery Choral Society has had a very busy winter season. Our biannual *Classics Galore!* concert, which we performed with the Exeter St. David's Players and other singers - and our good friends the Lymptone Band - to a sell-out audience in the University of Exeter Great Hall on November 9th, raised the phenomenal sum of £23,500 for the FORCE cancer charity.



For our Christmas concert on December 14th, we performed Poulenc's *Gloria*, a selection of other popular classics and some much-loved carols in the Ottery St. Mary Parish Church. The retiring collection for this concert, and for the carols we sang at Otter Nurseries the following Wednesday, raised £360 for Hospiscare.

We are now well into rehearsals for our Spring concert on **Saturday April 12th**, where we will be performing Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*. Napoleon III reputedly described this music as 'neither petite, solemn, nor particularly liturgical'. Rossini himself seemed uncertain of his creation. On the final page of his signed manuscript, he acknowledged that he was more suited to comic opera, and questioned whether had he written sacred music or was this a sacrilege? It certainly sounds very operatic. It is a piece that really plays to the choir's strengths - full-throated choruses, soaring solos, gorgeous duets and beautiful tunes that you will hum for days afterwards and wonder where they came from. It is a joy to sing. We are loving the rehearsals, and we are really excited for you to hear it. Tickets will go on sale in March, so keep an eye out on social media and for our posters.

Peter Hudson

Tipton Past

Breach of promise.

Whilst I was researching amongst the British Newspaper Archives I came across this interesting case which I thought that I would share; so in the words of Max Bygraves, "I wanna tell you a story."

In the mid-1800s Charles Teed Capron lived at Claypitts farm, Coombe on the side of East Hill. He was a tenant of Sir John Kennaway and farmed there with his wife, Caroline, and their six children. Mary was their eldest daughter and she helped to manage the farm, worked in the dairy and would occasionally visit market, along with her father.

Less than half a mile from them at Waxway Farm lived Richard Denning. He was described as a respectable, gentleman farmer who was living with his widowed mother and his sister. They predominantly farmed cattle and sheep. He also owned Cotley Farm, at Fluxton, where his brother John farmed.

In early 1860, Richard, at the age of 40, began to show an interest in young Mary who was only 19 years old. They would often meet on the lane by her father's house, as they lived not far apart. He would talk to her and they found that they liked one another. They struck up a friendship and they began to take walks together. Maybe they would walk up onto East



Waxway Farm, home of Richard Denning

Hill and look down across the Otter valley together on warm summer evenings - how romantic! He would often visit Mary at her family home, Claypitts, sometimes three times a week. They would sit together in the front room and occasionally in the back kitchen and they often played whist and other card games along with the Capron family at their farmhouse.

One summer during haymaking time, Richard came to Charles and Caroline to ask them for their daughter's hand in marriage and it followed that they made an engagement for the couple to be married. It was understood, both on her side and his, that the marriage was to take place after a reasonable time, she being very young at the time. It was agreed that the wedding would take place by the next corn harvest. Preparations began with dresses made and a cake ordered, a ring fitted and a marriage license obtained. They were though, not married by the time the harvest came; Richard had said that it would be more convenient for them to marry after the harvest as 'there would be less people about the house.'

Unfortunately it happened that a child was begotten before there was any right to beget one

Not long after it was discovered that Mary had fallen pregnant, Richard expressed his very great sorrow. He professed that his intentions remained the same, promising that he would still marry Mary in time to legitimatise the birth but this was not the case and a child was born in November 1863.

Mary had a difficult birth and suffered with illness afterwards, which could well have been post-natal depression. Richard still visited to sit with Mary and was noted to be kind to her. He said that his intention was to marry and take her home as soon as his mother and sister would allow. He paid towards the costs of Mary's confinement and to maintain the child, whose name was Matilda. Matilda was baptised at Tipton St John church.

As time went by Richard announced that he would no longer be able to marry Mary - it appeared that his mother and sister interfered with his plans, denying him the chance to marry her. Obviously, Mary

was devastated and her family continued to support her and her child at the family farm. Not long after there were rumours that Richard was courting another young lady, a daughter of a wealthy Sidmouth gentleman. No doubt she was believed to be a more suitable spouse, encouraged or even chosen by his mother.



This map from 1809 shows some interesting spellings of Waxway - Weeksway; Wiggaton - Wickaton

Mary, though, supported by her family, took Richard to court for a breach of his promise to marry her. The jury agreed that although Richard was seen as an honourable man, he had taken advantage of this young lady, seducing her and not carrying out his promise of marriage.

The judge described to the jury the position in life which Mary had lost by the breach of the promise, and in addition that she had had to endure the disgrace of seduction and a child to maintain. For this she was entitled to substantial damages - not vindictive damages - but a moderate amount, such as to meet the justice of this case. The jury considered and returned with an award of £350.

Richard went on to marry his new beau, whilst still living just up the road from the Capron family. I'm glad to say that Mary also later found love with a gentleman from Exeter and they went on to have two children together.

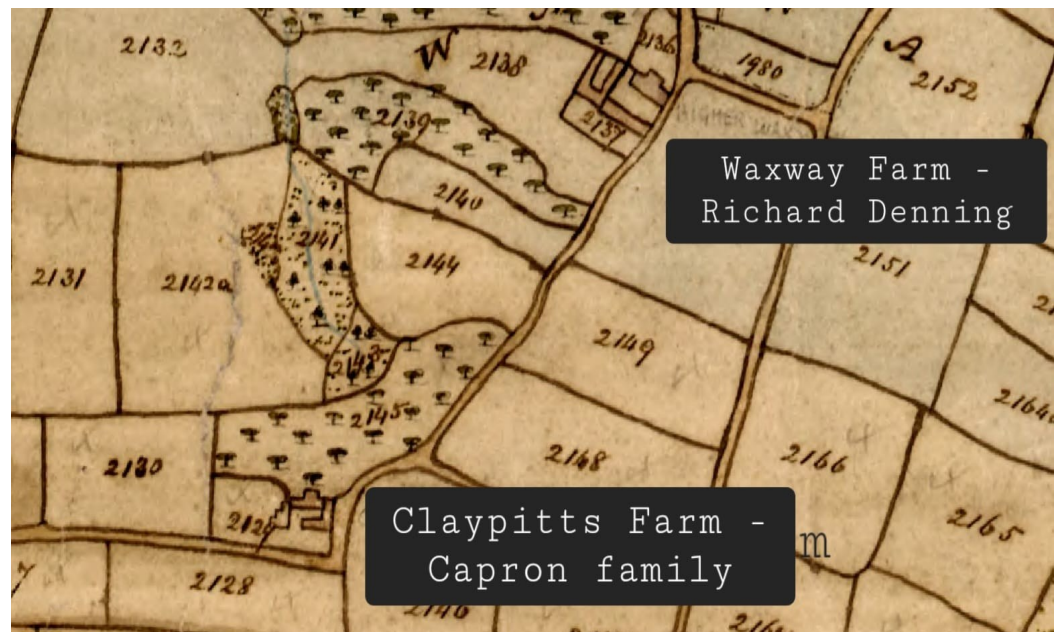
Richard and Mary's child, Matilda, continued to live with the Capron family at Claypitts. When she was older she took a housekeeper's job. She never married and lived until she was 80 years old. Charles Capron and Richard Denning are buried at Tipton St John church.

Judith Taylor

Information found through The British Newspaper Archives and Ancestry.

This map is taken from the Devon Historic Environment page and shows just how close the properties were: their fields backed onto one another's.

To access this map go to <https://devon.gov.uk/historicenvironment/tithe-map/>



Spicy root & lentil casserole

A hearty and filling vegetable stew which is perfect for a cold day! Easy on the pocket too!

Cooking time: Prep: 10 mins, Cook: 35 mins. Serves 4

2 tbsp. sunflower or vegetable oil
1 onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
700g potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
4 carrots, thickly sliced
2 parsnips, thickly sliced
2 tbsp. curry paste or powder
1 litre/1¾ pints vegetable stock
100g red lentils

A small bunch of fresh coriander, roughly chopped. Low-fat yogurt and naan bread to serve.



1. Heat the oil in a large pan and cook the onion and garlic over a medium heat for 3-4 minutes until softened, stirring occasionally. Tip in the potatoes, carrots and parsnips, turn up the heat and cook for 6-7 minutes, stirring, until the vegetables are golden.

2. Stir in the curry paste or powder, pour in the stock and then bring to the boil. Reduce the heat, add the lentils, cover and simmer for 15-20 minutes until the lentils and vegetables are tender and the sauce has thickened.

3. Stir in most of the coriander, season and heat for a minute or so. Top with yogurt and the rest of the coriander. Serve with naan bread. Enjoy!

Jenny Pinn

Church Calendar for February and March 2025

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

FEBRUARY

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.
Sunday	9 th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
Sunday	16 th	10.30 am	Café Church	Community Hall
Sunday	23 rd	9.30 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.

MARCH

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.
Ash Wednesday	5 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion	N. Pop
Sunday	9 th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
Sunday	16 th	10.30 am	Café Church	Community Hall
Sunday	23 rd	9.30 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
Mothering Sunday	30 th	11.00 am	Mothering Sunday Service	T.S.J.

APRIL

Saturday	5 th	10.00 am	Coffee Morning and produce stall	Community Hall
Sunday	6 th	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 10 a.m. on the following **Sundays : 2nd & 16th February and 2nd & 16th March.**

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

Diary Dates - February and March

All dates correct at the time of publication.

February

10th Feb	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14
15th Feb		Tennis Club Skittles and Buffet Evening, RBL West Hill	P15
18th - 21st Feb	7.30pm	TIPPS Aladdin pantomime, Community Hall	P4
22nd Feb	2pm and 6pm	TIPPS Aladdin pantomime, Community Hall	back cover
24th Feb	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14
28th Feb		Changeover date for the Golden Lion	P3

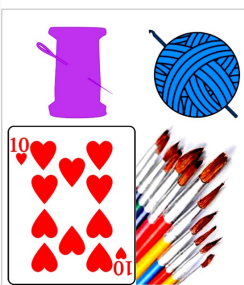
March

2nd Mar	7pm	Village Quiz, Community Hall	P14
10th Mar	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14
15th Mar	10am - 12noon	Tipton Ladies Coffee Morning, Community Hall	P4
22nd - 23rd Mar	mornings	Tipton Community Playing Field workparties	P7
24th Mar	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14

April

6th Apr	7pm	Village Quiz, Community Hall	P14
19th Apr	10am onwards	Easter Egg Stravaganza, Tipton Community Playing Field	P5

Art, Craft, Hobbies and Pastimes Group



We meet from **2.30 - 4.30pm every Thursday except for half-term week 20th February.**

Anyone is welcome to join us regularly or occasionally - £2 a session, no joining fee. Come and finish that bit of handicraft that has been languishing in a drawer, try that art project you have not got round to, play cards or board games or just enjoy a chat and a cuppa.

Just before Christmas we held a beetle drive with seasonal refreshments. We welcomed a few new faces and had a raffle which, together with some, donations enabled us to send £100 to the homeless charity Crisis. Many thanks to all who supported us.

Hope to see you one Thursday afternoon.

Ann Knight

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

Our Museum is now closed for the Winter and will reopen at Easter. Please check our website www.otteryheritage.org.uk for opening times. Our monthly members' talks take place at **The Institute, Yonder St., Ottery St Mary EX11 1HD** on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Guests are welcome at £3 payable at the door. Please check our website for any changes, but the schedule is as follows:

Tuesday 18th February at 7.30pm

Hunting the Hunter (The Story of the only US Navy Airbase in Europe) by Brian Fernley

Centred on RAF Dunkeswell, this talk features the Battle of the Atlantic, the only battle that continued throughout the 6 years of the WW2 conflict. One of those 'hunting' was Joe Kennedy, brother of JFK. We feature President Kennedy, only days before his death, reminiscing about his brother's time in the navy.

Tuesday 18th March at 7.30pm

West Country Mining – The Reality Behind the Myth or *Poldark With His Shirt On* by Ken McKechnie

A geologist turned novelist, Ken's illustrated talk centres on the lives of West Country miners. It is illuminated by his own experiences of 35 years mining metals, gold and diamonds in the remotest regions of the world. The men and women he worked with inspired him to take up writing his two books *The Boy in the Dark* set in mid-19th century Cornwall and *Cousin Jack* set in South Australia.

All enquiries, including annual membership (£20 single, £27.50 joint), to **Lynda Murlewski**, Hon. Secretary:
otteryheritage@gmail.com

Tipton St John Community Hall

? QUIZ NIGHTS ?

(teams of up to 6)

Sunday 2nd March at 7pm

Sunday 6th April at 7pm

£4 per head (pay by cash or card)

BYO food, drinks, and glasses

Please book your table in advance by
contacting John and Pauline Belton

01404 813431 or email:
thebeltons@talk21.com



Tipton Ladies Coffee
Morning

in aid of the

Motor Neurone Disease
Association

Saturday, March 15th

10am until 12 noon

in Tipton Community
Hall



Aladdin

Tipton St John Community Hall
Tuesday 18th Feb - Friday 21st Feb 2025 7:30pm
Saturday 22nd Feb 2025 2:00pm and 6:00pm
Available from: www.ticketsource/TIPPS

