

Tipton Times

329

October and
November 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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PROPOSED
CARER
SUPPORT
GROUP

TIPPS
PRESENTS
'THE FULL
TREATMENT'

AN EVENING
WITH
'THE IRON LADY'

TIPTON
SUPPORTS
CHILDREN IN NEED

COPY DEADLINE

For 330 - December 2025 & January 2026

Monday, 17th November (unless by arrangement)

CONTRIBUTIONS VIA YOUR BANK TO:

The Tipton Times Fund

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

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

*Red arrows in flight across the valley
during the Sidmouth Air Show*

Photo: Paul Taylor

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

Editorial

Welcome to the October/November edition of Tipton Times. We hope there is plenty in these pages to interest and inform you, particularly with regard to upcoming events. It looks like being a busy autumn in Tipton!

You will find details of a number of regular village events in the following pages: the autumn TIPPS production, The Full Treatment, from the **30th October to the 1st November**; the annual ramble in aid of Children in Need on the **11th October**; quiz nights are back at the Community Hall monthly on Sunday evenings; and the seasonal sporting shift from cricket to football at the playing field. Tony Harris will be returning to the Community Hall on **Saturday 8th November**, this time in the guise of the Iron Lady, Margaret Thatcher.

It's also great to read of some very successful recent events: congratulations are due in particular to all those whose efforts made the annual Church Fete and the Venn Ottery Harvest Festival so successful. Speaking of Harvest, many thanks to Ann Knight for her fascinating article on the worldwide celebration of Harvest on page 29, which is a welcome shift from a local to a global focus.

Alongside our regular contributors we are very pleased to welcome Councillor Sarah Martin, our new representative on Ottery Town Council, and look forward to her regular contributions in the coming months.

We'd also like to draw your attention to Jo Earlam's article on page 9 about starting a local carers' support group. This is a brilliant idea and we're sure it would be of huge benefit both to carers and those they look after. We hope the initial meetings on the **11th October** and **8th November** are well supported.

We were very sorry to hear of the recent deaths of Brian Blackbeard and Gilly Startup, following long illness, and would like to pass on our condolences to Christian, Mark and Paula Blackbeard and Chris Startup.

The Editors

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Tipton Fete 2025

August Bank Holiday Monday wouldn't be the same without our annual Church Fete (for example, I could have a lie-in and wouldn't need to worry about the weather ...), and we were again blessed with sunny weather and a successful and enjoyable day.



Our churches in Tipton and Venn Ottery are delighted to arrange this event for our local community, but the funds raised also make a very important contribution to the funds we need for our work in the parish, the charities we support and, of course, the running costs of our churches. I am pleased to report that this year's Fete raised the wonderful sum of just over £5,060, thanks to the generosity of all who attended and contributed, including all our helpers and the many kind donors of prizes and goods for sale.

Well done to Ken and Paul and their team who did hot work all afternoon on the barbecue, Janet and her helpers who provided the delicious teas and cakes, and our splendid local musicians, Wonky Buzzard (Vanda, Chris, Martha and Josie), whose wide repertoire of popular music was again much enjoyed and contributed so much to the happy atmosphere of our Fete.

Further entertainment was provided in the form of a wide range of children's games cheerfully run by Mo and her helpers, the popular *how many sweets in the jar* game kindly provided (did she eat any herself?) and run by Shirley, the tombola/bottle stall run by Keith and Caroline (on which I won nothing, but will forgive them in time) and the gin (and tonic) raffle run by the efficient (and still sober) Patrick.

Thanks are due to the Golden Lion, Tipton Garage, Baters Removals, Sargent and Sons, Otter Nurseries and the many other local businesses who again provided splendid prizes for the Grand Draw (although I now urgently need lessons on the use of the car cleaning kit I won, as anyone familiar with the state of my car will know ...), to Ann and Terry for again organizing it and to Elizabeth for collecting many of the prizes, including the afore-mentioned car cleaning kit.

Special thanks also to Sundial Care Home for providing convenient parking for our visitors and helpers and for donating the prize for the ever-popular gin raffle.

Our stalls all did good business, offering a wide range of books, bric-a-brac, jewellery, bags and accessories, toys and games, jigsaws, plants and delicious home-made cakes and produce, and my thanks go to all those who worked on them and who made, collected, sorted, baked, cooked, and grew the wares on sale.



As always, we are very pleased to welcome local charities and organisations to the Fete, and these included the Men's Shed, with a great range of handmade goods, Tipton Ladies, with an interesting display and a welcome to new members and a sale of cards on behalf of Stallcombe House, the assisted living charity.

Car parking was again efficiently handled by Malcolm and his able team of high-vis helpers, and the gate was expertly (wo)manned by June and Sue, who painlessly extracted the outrageous entry fee of £2 from our adult visitors, children being admitted free.

Thank you again to all who attended the Fete and to all our many kind helpers and donors, who made it all possible. I hope you all enjoyed your day and look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Mike Smith
Fete Chairman



TIPPS News and an appeal for help

Here is a note from the directors of our Autumn production, Ann and Terry Knight.

Rehearsals are well underway for the autumn production *The Full Treatment* by Michael Brett. We have one completely new face to the Tipton stage and several who haven't been seen for a while, as well as the usual favourites. Do come and see what we have been up to, including the set in the capable hands of Linda Williams which promises to be well worth

a look. With a Saturday performance timed to get the cautious home before the dark winter night and two evening ones to choose from, do look at the booking arrangements on our poster and support your local live drama-just as good as much on the telly!

The performances are on **Thursday 30th and Friday 31st of October at 7.30pm** and on **1st November at 2pm**. Tickets are available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/TIPPS or Tipton Village Store priced at £10.

TIPPS, in common with a lot of groups these days, have an increasingly elderly membership. This, of course limits our activities somewhat, not so much from an acting point of view, as we have quite a few actors in younger age brackets and, of course, our wonderful Juniors - but we still lack young adults. The biggest impact age is having on our group is not having the same physical strength and stamina to build sets, work backstage, and, believe it or not, to run the costume department, which is our main concern at the moment.

We have a wonderful group of ladies who, as you will know, produce fantastic costumes for all our productions. But our wardrobe department is quite large and kept in two places - a container shed and an indoor cupboard both crammed with rails, boxes and bags - and they are finding it increasingly difficult to move things around.

They would very much welcome a new (younger!) team member to join them, not just to move things around but to bring new sewing skills or, indeed, to learn from them if you've no experience. You would be joining a team of very talented ladies. Please contact me if you would like to help.

As I mentioned in the last edition of TT, Peter Pan is to be our February production. Natalie Anning and Claire Devin are writing the script and will be casting it in the next couple of months.

Yvonne Kellett

ykellett@gmail.com 07875 867222

BBC Countryfile Annual Ramble in aid of Children-in-Need

Saturday, 11th October from 2pm

Living in a village situated in such an exceptionally beautiful part of the country, it is a pleasure to raise funds for this cause by getting out and enjoying our surroundings.

We have been doing these walks for a number of years and the weather has mostly been kind to us. The walks, planned by Jo Earlam, are of varied length and about 5 miles maximum, with short cuts being available.

For those wanting to support the cause but not up to the walking, you can come and enjoy the tea and cakes for a donation. Walkers can also make a donation, about £5 is usual, but what we really want is sponsors. Sponsor forms can be obtained from me.

Donations of cakes and offers of help are also welcome - as are dogs!



Ann Knight

01404 812040 or annknight@gmx.com



Nature Notes

Well, that was a summer to remember! It actually seemed to begin in spring and went right the way through to the beginning of September! Then someone immediately decided to flick the switch to autumn and it looks as though for all that sunshine we experienced, we will now have equal quantities of rain to balance the books. At least the rain is still warm ... for the moment!



We can now look forward to the colour changes that the season brings, especially from Mother nature's elder representatives. While some trees, such as ash and oak, have more subtle hues, beech, chestnut and maple will provide stunning displays as the seasonal transformation takes place. The fruits of these and many other trees will also be produced at the same time. Acorns and beech mast will no doubt be available in large quantities but if it's chestnuts you're after then it's best to get there early to avoid disappointment. They don't stay on the ground for long, as the squirrels collect them for their winter food store! Jays become more noticeable this month. Jays are members of the crow family with pale pinkish-brown body plumage and bright blue wing patches. They also have a black streaked head crest, which is raised when displaying to other birds. In autumn you can see jays hopping around the woodland floor in search of food. In September and October there is an abundance of acorns on the ground and jays collect these in large numbers. Those which cannot be eaten immediately are buried in the ground as a winter food supply.

I had an email a while ago asking me if I could identify a small snakelike creature. With no pictures to go on, I ran through our list of resident snakes and lizards, none of which seemed to fit the description. I also, just lately, received an email from this person to let me know that it had finally been identified as an elephant hawk-moth caterpillar. If you have ever seen these creatures crawling around your fuchsia bushes, their food of choice, you might well have been alarmed by their appearance. With their pronounced 'eye' markings and the trunk-like snout, at the head end, which gives them their name, they do seem a little scary! But fear not ... it will turn into what I believe is one of our most beautiful moths.



elephant hawk-moth caterpillar

Hibernation is something that a few of our mammals will be preparing for soon. In fact, there are only three species that truly hibernate - bats, hedgehogs and dormice. Dormice hibernate from October to April. The hedgerows are full of food at the moment, including blackberries and nuts, so these little creatures will be fuelling up for the long winter sleep. Because they are shy, nocturnal creatures, it is very unlikely that you will spot them, and because of their scarcity, they are protected by law. However, finding signs of their presence may prove a little easier. Shells of hazelnuts, which have been eaten by dormice, have a round, smooth edged hole. You might also find an old hibernation nest. They look like a brown tennis ball, woven together from bits of honeysuckle bark, grass and dry leaves. This also brings up the annual hedgehog awareness warning. To a hedgehog, the piles of wood and vegetation heaped up for bonfire night look like the ideal winter retreat. If you're planning a bonfire on Guy Fawkes night, or at any time this winter, please carefully check through the material before lighting to make sure no animals have crawled inside.



Swallows and martins will have been making their way back to Africa for the winter. It doesn't seem as if it was that long ago that they were arriving here - and now their long and sometimes treacherous migration begins again. As these birds leave our shores, many winter migrants will arrive here. It is always a great experience to visit your

local rivers, estuaries and seashores to see what is arriving. They are not all to be found near water, though, as birds such as redwings, fieldfares and bramblings will attest. When you see these birds flocking and feeding in the fields, you know that the temperatures, and the rain, will be somewhat colder than they have been.

One of the few butterflies still flying this month is the comma. When the sun comes out you can see it flitting around the last of the flowering plants, before settling down for the rest of the winter. Commas are one of the few butterflies which overwinter in the adult stage of life. They usually hibernate in a sheltered tree or hedge.

Tipton St John Playing Field

Hello Tipton

Autumn is definitely with us now bringing shorter days and lower temperatures. As I sit writing this article I think back on what an amazing spring and summer we have had at the playing field - from the community cricket match, Easter egg hunt, newly configured well-being area, fun run to the summer fayre. It truly does feel like a community area again.

Please can I kindly remind all dog walkers to clean up after your dog.

There has been an increase in dog mess being left around the field. A kind member of the community has put up a dog bag dispenser (thank you) and we have also put a dog bin at the top of the field - so there really is no excuse for leaving dog mess.

As the autumn and soon the winter hit the playing field we still have things to see and do. The football season has started so why not come down and support the village team - or enjoy a nice early winter morning walk around the labyrinth followed by a fun game of pétanque?

We are looking at holding a volunteer day on **Saturday 4th October at 10am** (weather permitting) so we can get the field winter-ready so please do come along and help out. Tasks will include tidying up around the toilet area, tidying the play park and trimming along the fence and car park.

Would you like to sponsor or donate a bench on the playing field?

We have room for two new benches on the field. If you'd like to contribute or donate one, perhaps in someone's memory, please let us know. Many thanks!

Our AGM will be on **Monday November 3rd** in the Community Hall at **7.30pm**. If you have any concerns or questions you would like to be raised please do come along as this is an open meeting: it would be amazing to see a wider perspective from the community. Also, if you can't make it, please email me and I will bring it to the AGM.

As always, keep using and enjoying the field.

Mark Rigden, Chairman



Recipe Corner Devon Apple Cake

Here is another family favourite of ours. Perfectly befitting the season to come. It is one from my mother-in-law, Val. You can enjoy it cold, or hot with lashings of custard, ice cream or both.

Ingredients

1 lb self-raising flour
½ lb butter or margarine (preferably butter)
½ lb caster sugar
3 eggs
A nice lot of cooking apples
1 tsp cinnamon

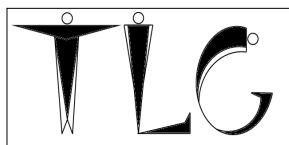
Method

Rub the butter, flour and cinnamon together. Add the sugar and peeled and sliced apples and mix in. Whip the eggs and mix all together. Put it all in a shallow baking dish and cook in a moderate oven (160° F, 350° C) for about an hour - or until the apples are cooked and it is a nice crisp brown.



Enjoy !

Jenny Pinn



Tipton Ladies Group

In July, Elizabeth Cozens gave us an enlightening talk about

the time she spent in Nepal, funded by the German development agency *Bread for the World*, as an Education Advisor. Working with Nepalese staff, both in Kathmandu and in six areas ranging from the flat Terai regions to the very high and isolated mountain communities, they worked with local communities to identify obstacles to education and to offer support, education, tools and resources to improve educational opportunities, particularly for girls.



Nepal is predominantly Hindu. There are traditional

Nepali Hindu cultural challenges to girl's education in some regions. Women cook and do housework, they eat after the men (so are often less well nourished) and when they marry, they go to live with their husband's family and therefore contribute little to the support of their own parents in their old age (consequently there is less incentive to educate daughters). Girls are often absent from school if they are needed to work at home or if married off early.

Working with local communities, schools were improved by providing low level desks and carpets, encouraging and providing educational wall displays and hanging libraries, offering food in areas of malnourishment and providing brushes, combs, towels and menstrual products. In addition, they worked with *child clubs* – these are clubs run by a committee of children in Nepalese schools and mentored by a teacher. The teacher works with the children to identify issues that they want to address in their local community. These are tackled through educational campaigns and small changes to the local education curriculum - topics such as child marriage, child labour, better libraries etc. have been addressed locally via this approach.

There are more than 100 tribal languages spoken in Nepal but Nepali is the official language. This can be a major obstacle to education in the more remote areas as young children often arrive at school unable to speak or understand Nepali. Very successful multilingual teaching material has been developed by the advisory team and materials produced locally to help pupils bridge from their first language to Nepali.

Elizabeth herself visited many schools observing and providing supportive feedback to teachers and helped to train teachers in teaching with computers and running practical science classes. Sometimes this involved very scary flights in the Himalayas and 8hour treks along narrow vertiginous tracks, but it was clear to see from her passion and pleasure in talking about the success of working with Nepalese educators that the work was rewarding and formed an important role in advancing teaching standards in the regions.



In September we were delighted to welcome back Stephen Powles, a retired vet from near Tiverton who is passionate about local wildlife and, last year, stunned us with his impressive otter photography. He gave us a talk about the decline of the hedgehog in the UK and ways in which we can help their recovery. Sadly, in the past decade, hedgehog numbers have reduced by about half in rural areas and a third in urban areas. The decline has been attributed to a range of factors but high amongst them are the increase in road deaths - and agricultural practices that have

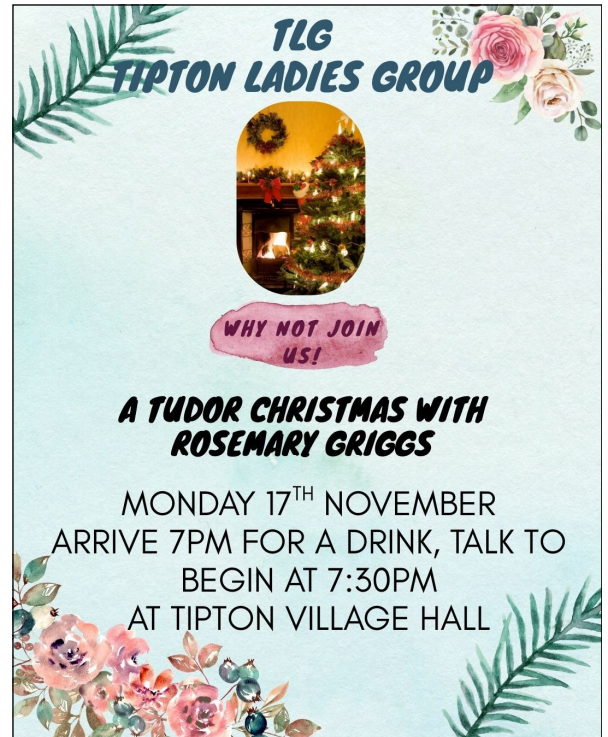
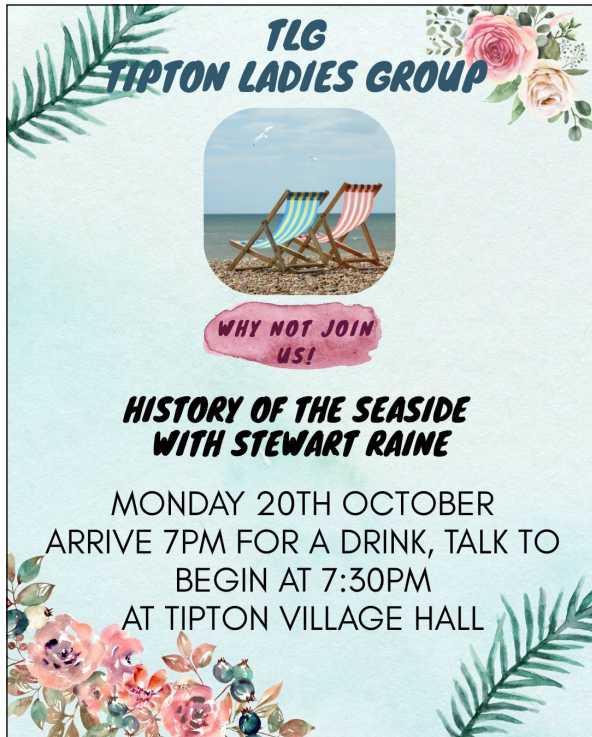
reduced the local biodiversity and thus suitable hedgehog habitat and food supply. Similarly in urban areas we frequently impose artificial barriers such as roads, walls or fences that limit hedgehog range or just make it harder for them to get around and we have tidied up many areas that provided the wilder worm, beetle, slug etc, habitats vital for their food supply.

He showed us pictures from a village-wide project in Kirtlington in Oxfordshire where residents have undertaken a project to link gardens, churchyard and school grounds via hedgehog highways by cutting small holes in walls and fences (and occasionally adding some steps and ramps) so that the hedgehogs are able to easily move around the village without having to cross roads. Videos of hedgehogs using the various gaps and ramps captured all our hearts.

We were introduced to lots of ideas including making a wildlife corner, creating a hedgehog feeding station (please don't feed them meal worms), checking longer grass before strimming and making neighbourhood hedgehog highways. We learned lots of interesting facts about hedgehogs and their habits. If you want to know more about how you can make your garden more hedgehog friendly a useful website we were pointed to is hedgehogstreet.org.

On October 15th we will be having a talk on the history of the seaside and on November 17th, to start to get us into the festive spirit, we will be hearing all about a Tudor Christmas. New faces are always welcome.

Mo Mylne



Carer support group proposal for Tipton

As a longtime carer for my husband John, who has dementia and mobility issues, I'm aware of the stress and difficulties that many carers face. The impact has been further brought home to me since I became a Carer Ambassador with Devon Carers earlier this year and began talking with a number of people across the county caring for relatives and friends with many different needs, and of all ages.

John recently spent some time in respite, is now home again, and I'm keen to explore all options to help me best care for him at home and try to help other local people, too, who have a caring role.

There's a variety of statutory services out there, but not much that I'm aware of on a neighbourly level within the village, specifically for carers. I'm interested in setting up a local informal support group that could benefit anyone who is a carer and, in turn, their cared for person. I put a brief post on the Tipton community Facebook page a few weeks ago and received a positive response - thanks to those who replied.

I'd like to follow that up by inviting anyone interested, if you're a carer or would like to support local people who have a caring role, to an initial *coffee and chat* get together at our home, which is Brambledown, Green Lane, Tipton St John, EX10 0AH. I've selected two dates, **Saturday 11th October from 10.30am to 12.30pm**, and the same time on **Saturday 8th November**. Please feel free to come for the whole two hours, or just drop in during that time - drinks, cake and biscuits provided.



If you can't make those get togethers but would like to chat separately please drop me an email. My email is jo.earlam@hotmail.co.uk. As a Carer Ambassador part of the role is to feed back carer's views through Devon Carers to statutory service providers like NHS and Social Services.

The last few months have been a series of complex twists and turns for us personally. I'm grateful to friends and neighbours who've been supportive, and I'd like to promote more joined-up support for everyone who has a caring role.

Jo Earlam

Tipton St John Residents Association

We have been delighted with the bridge baskets this year, which have responded well to the hot dry weather. Thanks to Alison, once again, for creating a stunning display with the hanging baskets too. We are so grateful to our watering team of Alison & David, Anne B, Anne R, Barbara & Tony, Gill & Allen, Janet & Chris, Jenny & Mick, Kay & Ian, Linda & Ray, Mo & Ken, Penny & Trevor, Rosemary & James and Sarah & Steve - and to the garage for supplying the water. The baskets were re-painted and filled with fresh compost in the spring and will be planted up for the winter months sometime in October.



The flower beds on the green haven't been quite so colourful.

The ground there is poor and dry and Anne, Andrew, Cathy and Will did their best to water when they could. However, the hebes continue to do well, the hydrangea has survived and the whole site was uplifted by a fresh coat of paint on the wall and steps (paint funded by the Playing Field Association). We are most grateful to Will who has taken over the job of cutting the grass on the green.

We would like to invite someone else to join our watering team - to cover one week over the summer months, watering daily depending on the weather conditions.
If you could help, please contact Anne via tiptontimes2020@gmail.com.

Anne, Alison, Janet, Judith, Mo and Paula

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

Our Museum is open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday each week until the end of September and will then be closed for the winter, opening again in April next year. Please check our website www.otteryheritage.org.uk for exact opening times as we regularly keep this up to date.

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 on the door. Please check our website for any changes, but the schedule is currently as follows:

Tuesday 21 October 2025 at 7.30pm Britain's Secret Defences by Andrew Chatterton

The talk focuses on the highly secret civilian groups who were pulled together to counter a German invasion during the Second World War - giving a local perspective on what was happening in East Devon.

Tuesday 18 November 2025 at 7.30pm Smuggling in Devon: The Truth Behind the Fiction by Peter Hesketh

Between 1700 and 1850 smuggling became a huge industry in Devon with most Devonians active in it, profiting from it - or at least colluding in it. All social classes were involved. Clergymen and aristocrats were among the backers. None thought cheating the government of exorbitant taxes was wrong and smugglers brought to trial were usually acquitted by sympathetic Devon juries and magistrates. This talk attempts a balanced view of an illegal trade which long flourished in Devon despite the government's best efforts to stamp it out.

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

Thought for the Times

At this time of year many churches, including our own here in Tipton St John and Venn Ottery, celebrate harvest thanksgiving. The practice of giving thanks to God for the provision of food from cultivated land goes back all the way to when the Hebrews left their slavery in Egypt and moved into the promised land, over three thousand years ago!

So we, in our generation, give thanks to God for the crops from our cultivated land. But what will that harvest be like this year? We had a very dry summer, and back in August farmers were warning that the harvest of some crops would be poor this year.

For those of faith it feels right to pray for rain. Some of us did this together a few weeks ago. Every Saturday, at 9am, people from across the Otter Vale Mission Community gather online through a Zoom link, which you can find on the Otter Vale Churches website (look for OVMC Morning Prayer for Creation on the homepage) to pray for God's creation. On Saturday 16th August we were praying for rain. Team Rector Lydia was not available that day so I not only joined in but led these prayers. We need rain to make the crops grow; we need crops to live.

However, Saturday 16th August was also my daughter's birthday, and, in the afternoon, we were going to be a party of seven adults and five children. I really wanted it to be dry so that we - especially the children - could be outside in the garden. Although I had prayed for rain in the morning, I would have been disappointed if it had rained that afternoon. I was praying that it would rain and praying that it would not rain! What do we do with that? Perhaps a better question is: What does God do with that? Does God answer our prayers? And if he does, what should God do with a contrary pray-er like me?

During that extremely dry spell, farmers and gardeners were praying for rain. All of us who want to eat should have been praying for rain. And yet, on every day there is someone having a special occasion. I have often prayed with couples on the eve of their wedding day that it would be dry on their special day. If the weather has been really dry and sunny for a long period, you do understandably feel disappointed if it rains on the one day that is most important to you. "Why today?" you cry, "Why me?"

How does our good, loving God respond when he receives multiple but contradictory prayer requests from his children?

My choice of the word 'children' points to one answer. Through Jesus, God revealed himself as a heavenly Father. It was Jesus who taught us to pray, "Our Father in heaven." He is like a parent.

Those of us who have the privilege of being parents to more than one child know that sometimes those children will want different things. Sometimes they will ask the parent for the opposite of what their sibling wants. What should the parent do?



Even with one child, that child may give mixed messages about what they want - as contrary as me asking for rain and no rain. Or the child may ask for something impossible or something that would have really bad consequences that the child does not yet understand.

We earthly, human parents know that we are far from perfect. We get things wrong all the time. But when we are at our best, we may have moments of being loving, wise and fair. Faced with contradictory requests from our children, we do what we think is most loving, least foolish and, as far as possible, fair. But an individual child may still feel that their request was not granted.

God the heavenly Father is perfect. He may not always give us everything we ask for - especially when we are not sure what we really want - but he will act for what is best. It may be what we want, but it may be someone else's prayer. Because in the background of every prayer we whisper, "Thy will be done."

Mark

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Friends of St John and St Gregory Club

1st £30 Bruno Hanoman (63)

2nd £20 Stephanie Kinson (4)

3rd £15 Jenny Parkin (53)

Church News

Summer is now over and one of the highlights of our year, the Church Fete, is all done and dusted - see the report from our Fete Chairman, Mike Smith, elsewhere in this edition of TT. The sun shone and the crowds came and the reports I had from those returning to their cars at the car park, were that it was a great success. By the time you read this we will also have held our three celebrations of harvest, a sure sign that autumn is with us. The monetary collection from all of these harvest services will be donated to Ripple Africa (www.rippleafrica.org/) a charity working in Malawi to help communities develop sustainable improvements in education, healthcare and agriculture. Physical donations of packaged produce and other items will be taken to St Petrocks, the homeless centre in Exeter. If you missed the chance to donate items at our harvest services then items can be left in the box at the back of church or at my house, St Mary's, Hayne Close, until 19th October. The wish list of items can be found in the last edition of Tipton Times or at <https://stpetrocks.org.uk/give-help/harvest/>.



Café Church

Our Café Church on the 3rd Sunday of the month in the Community Hall continues to grow in popularity. At our August event we had 55 adults plus children - but we can make room for more so do come and join us. Our next meeting is on **19th October** when the theme will be 'Never give up!' and on **16th November** we will be looking ahead to Advent, the season of waiting that leads up to Christmas. Doors open as usual at 10.30am for coffee, pastries and chat with a short time of informal worship starting around 11am. All ages are welcome - children's activities are always available.

All Souls & Remembrance

On Sunday 2nd November we hold our annual service for All Souls when we remember and give thanks for loved ones we have lost, not just over the past year but those we still miss. The service starts at 3pm in church and is followed by a tea. On the following Sunday, 9th November, we will join with the nation in holding our Service of Remembrance in honour of those from our community who laid down their lives in service of their country. Please note this service begins promptly at 10.55am so that we can participate in the 2 minutes' silence at 11am.

Homegroup

Our homegroup returns from its summer break on 2nd October. The aim of these weekly meetings is to grow in our personal faith, to get to know God better and in doing so get to know each other better - you don't have to attend our or any church but simply want to understand better what the Christian faith is all about. We start at 7.30pm each Thursday evening at St Mary's, Hayne Close and all are welcome to come and join us, just bring your Bible. We begin this term looking at the Nicene Creed, the foundational statement of our belief, which this year celebrates its 1700th birthday! We're also hoping to have some informal sessions looking at some of the issues facing our world today, so do come and join us.

Coffee Mornings

I end with a reminder that our monthly coffee mornings return on Saturday 4th October. Do come and join us in the Community Hall from 10am until 12 noon. Please note though that the November coffee morning will be postponed by a week to November 8th.

If you have any questions about what's happening in your church do please call or email me anytime.

David Williamson

Licensed Lay Minister, Otter Vale Mission Community

St Mary's, Hayne Close, Tipton St John

Tel. 01404 812493

Email davidhwilliamson@btinternet.com

Tipton St John Cricket Club

At the time of writing we have only two matches left to play before another season comes to an end. One of the great features of the latter end of the season is the chance to play some notable touring sides. The Vancouver Islanders, Incogniti and Ascott-under-Wychwood have become welcome fixtures in our calendar.

Unfortunately, this season we were unable to beat any of them although, as ever, they were all closely fought and played in a great spirit.

Our ratio of victories and losses remains just in the black, however, with 20 wins and 18 defeats. There have been some high-scoring matches recently, with Tipton posting 272-4 in their victory over Topsham St James. However, a similar score the following week, 261-7, was not enough to beat Woodbury and Newton St Cyres in the annual David O'Higgins memorial match.

A number of notable individual milestones have been celebrated this year: the evergreen Phil Wright continues to take wickets in abundance: 54 so far this season is an astonishing achievement and the third time in his career that he has passed 50 in a season. For two years running, John Buckland has passed 1000 runs for the season and remains outstanding in the field, for the fourth time taking more than 30 catches. Apart from 15-year-old Brendan Coles, he is the only Tipton player to score a century this summer. David Birch, in his last season for the club, took his 800th wicket for Tipton.

An unexpected visitor drew the attention of his 109K Instagram followers to a stunning catch by Tom Jeacock off the bowling of Phil Wright during the match against Ascott-Under-Wychwood. University Challenge host and R4 Today programme host Amol Rajan happened to be watching the match with his children, managed to video the catch and described it as follows:

"Another miracle in the South West ... Tipton St John is a gorgeous spot in Devon, with a very beautiful cricket ground right next to the River Otter ... Anyway I was watching with my son and littlest, which was heavenly enough, and then the first ball I filmed, we saw this quite magnificent catch at mid-on, leaping one-handed to pluck the jewel from the sky. The reaction from backward square leg (the fielder nearest the camera, who puts his hands on his head) sums it up nicely. One of the best things about village cricket is the occasional outbreak of spontaneous brilliance. Even better when caught on camera."

The link to the video is here: <https://www.instagram.com/amolrajan/reel/DNq5Qzkl7Yq/>

As the season draws to a close, we are very grateful to those whose work behind the scenes is essential to the club's success, in particular: Phil Wright for his match reports, statistics and financial watchfulness as Treasurer, Jem Gillham for his tireless efforts in making our machinery work and preparing our wickets alongside David Birch; our Captain and Vice-Captain, Dave Thayre (also our Fixtures Secretary) and John Buckland, who ensure that every match is played in the right spirit. Many thanks, too, to everyone who has supported us this summer!



Brian Blackbeard

We are very sorry to pass on the news of the death of long-time Tipton stalwart and former umpire, Brian Blackbeard, following a long illness. Brian gave so much to the club from its foundation and he will be much missed. There have already been numerous tributes paid to him on our Facebook page and we look forward to a fuller and more detailed article in the next Tipton Times.

Meanwhile, our thoughts and sincere condolences go to Christian, Mark and Paula.

Brian's funeral will take place on **Friday 3rd October** at 1pm at the East Devon crematorium and afterwards at the Golden Lion.

Upcoming Dates:

AGM: **Thursday 13th November**, Community Hall

Annual Dinner and Awards Evening:

Thursday 20th November at The Golden Lion

David Birch, Chair (07929 822940)

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Tipton Community Hall

Well, we have had the rain that I wanted last time and I am sure that you and your gardens and pots are all grateful. Walking on my lawns was like strolling on Weetabix! (Other cereal brands are available.) Almost overnight, autumn arrived which, as this is the October/November edition, is more or less as it should be. Talking about gardens, the wonderful Open Garden Day raised enough money to be able to donate £200 to the Tipton Playing Field Association for the pavilion and £200 to InFocus, a charity for to help young people with visual and other special needs. What a lovely thing to be able to do! Thank you, Alicia, Jane and your helpers for that lovely day.

Everyone visiting the facilities in the Hall will now be able to dry their hands with the super new hand dryers. They are powerful, very effective and are great for warming cold hands during the brief time it takes to do the job.

Those of you who were lucky enough to go to the Carmen evening with music from that wonderful opera and tapas for supper to complement the whole atmosphere of Spanish brilliance, will have come away humming some familiar tunes. There were many new faces in the Hall - and I hope that those who have no experience of opera will be inspired to listen to more. I believe that next year we may be able to have them back to do the opera Cinderella. There's a story everyone knows! A huge thank you to Kara and friends for entertaining us so musically and capturing the spirit of the opera with individual pieces.

To continue with the entertainments, our **quiz nights** have been set as follows:

28th September, 2nd November, 7th December 2025
18th January, 22nd February, 22nd March and 26th April 2026.

Gather your team of up to six and accompanied by baskets of wine, snacks, G&T (don't forget the ice) and various other goodies, and come and show 'em all how outstanding you are. Note that I didn't say at what!

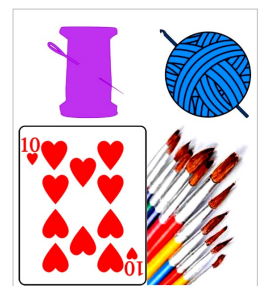
Fitted in amongst all that is Tony Harris coming along as Maggie Thatcher on **Saturday, 8th November**. I for one just can't wait. He is such a clever impersonator and also has an encyclopaedic knowledge of whichever subject he has chosen for the evening. A fish and chip supper will be part of the evening.

Kyle Hayes

Art, Craft, Hobbies and Pastimes Group

Our first session this Thursday, September 4th, was very well attended so I think we have been missed! It was good to see all the familiar people again with a new one. Everybody is welcome to join us, regularly or occasionally. Come and finish that bit of handicraft that has been languishing in a drawer, try that art project you have not got round to, finish your knitting, play cards or board games or just enjoy a chat and a cuppa.

Tipton Community Hall, from 2.30 - 4.30pm every Thursday until Christmas except for October 30th. £2.00 a session, no joining fee.

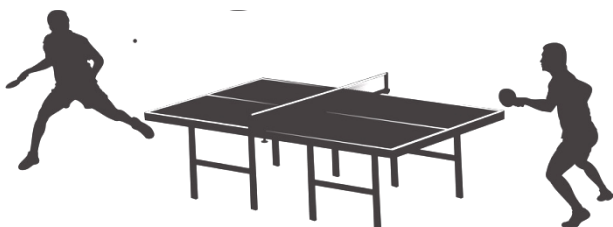


Ann Knight

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 **Mondays**

October 13th (no meeting on October 27th)

November 10th and 24th

Tipton St John Tennis Team update

Tipton's Mens A team fell just agonisingly short of avoiding relegation to division 4 in one of the toughest leagues in recent times. The squad, captained by Steve Upsher, ended up just 5 points shy of division 3 survival, picking up three wins in their last four matches, bolstered by the return of Bournemouth University student Ben Rutter. Pete Clarke and Glyn Heritage were the other mainstays in the team, which drew players from the B team when needed. Unfortunately, the Mens B team struggled and will be relegated too.



The Ladies team have had a good season in the Exeter and District Tennis League, Division 4. With a healthy sized squad we were able to give a number of team members a chance to play and we experienced some really close and fun matches. We are lucky to have really good snack support too and both us and the visiting teams really appreciate the home baked cookies and brownies which keep us going and reward us at the end of the evening.

We finished 3rd in our division so will remain in division 4 for the next summer season. We feel it is the division that suits us best as the standard is such that we have really good matches which can be very close and which invite excellent play from both teams. Having played in other divisions we know that matches there can be a bit one-sided so we are happy to sit tight in this one and roll on next summer.

Well done Tipton Ladies!

Steve Upsher and Kate Fraser

Harpford Village Hall – Ready to Welcome You Back!

What a year it's been! The Trustees of Harpford Village Hall, together with a brilliant band of volunteers, have been working away behind the scenes to raise funds and give our village hall a much-needed makeover. It's truly been a labour of love - and we're delighted to say the Hall is now looking fantastic!

Inside you'll find a bright, modern space with comfy seating for 40, a sparkling new kitchen (complete with bar), Wi-Fi and new toilet facilities. Step outside and you can enjoy the new decking area too, which has space for another 30 people - perfect for a get-together or a cup of tea in the sunshine.



Now that everything's ready, we'd love to see the Hall buzzing with life again. Whether it's for a club meeting, a family get-together, a birthday celebration, a wedding, or even just a quiet workspace for a few hours, the Hall is here for you. At just £10 an hour, it's a lovely spot that really does feel special. Come to an event to see for yourself.

If you'd like to know more, have a look at our website [harpfordvillagehall@wordpress.com](http://harpfordvillagehall.wordpress.com), or give Sue Jeffries a ring on **07762 0721801**. We can't wait to welcome you!

Many thanks

Liz Downen

Chair

Harpford Village Hall

Trustees

Tel: 07940261781

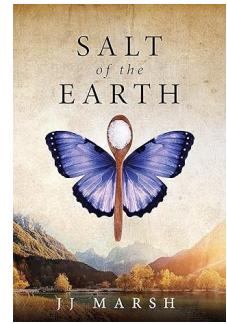




Tipton Readers

Salt of the Earth by J J Marsh

Armed with a theory, two sacks of salt and a mule, Bayard climbs a mountain, intent on treating one tiny village. The paths of two unlikely young people cross in turbulent times, against a backdrop of one country doctor's fight against folklore, prejudice and false pride. Salt of the earth is a journey of bravery and broken hearts following their call.



Set against the backdrop of WW1 in neutral Switzerland, the novel follows the life of Bastian Favre. We first find him defending Switzerland's borders whilst a conscript in the Swiss Army. He is demobbed and continues his training to be a doctor where we meet his college friends. He qualifies and arrives at St. Klaus (a village in the Matterthal Valley) to assist Dr. Bayard in research into the "country's curse". People in this area suffer from goitre, early onset deafness and blindness and more horrifying many children born as cretins. The hypothesis is that the cause is lack of iodine, which stops thyroxine being manufactured by the thyroid gland. During his research he meets the *sapphire eyed* Seraphine, and treats her and her pregnant mother with iodised salt along with his other research subjects. The results are amazing, peoples' goitres disappear, very few cretins are born and the villagers become more motivated and successful. There follows a love story where despite many setbacks Bastian and Seraphine marry and live contentedly by Lake Garda.

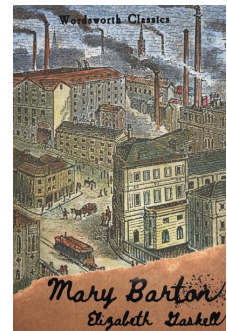
But the essence of this story is that through the dedication and determination of several men in Switzerland (results were also mirrored in USA), despite great opposition iodised salt became available to all who needed it. Iodine deficiency is present in many parts of the world and Dr. Otto Bayard is considered to be the father of iodine prophylaxis. The book proved to be another marmite moment, our members either loved it or hated it. Having said that, those who weren't keen also did some research on the historical research, so obviously found it thought provoking! The group average score was 7.

Jenny Parkin

Mary Barton by Elizabeth Gaskell

Mary Barton is another classic piece of literature, a novel of early Victorian times, set in Manchester during the Industrial Revolution. This was the first of Mrs Gaskell's novels, and the wider success of some of her other writings, such as *North and South* and *Cranford* enticed the group into thinking they were in for a very enjoyable read.

Gaskell lived for many years in Manchester, in a well-to-do family house with her Unitarian Minister husband William. She showed a concern for the condition of the working man and his family in the rapidly expanding urban environment, and this became the subject of *Mary Barton*.



The author was well regarded in literary circles of the time, writing in a magazine called *Household Words* which was edited by Charles Dickens, and publishing a biography of Charlotte Bronte who was a life-long friend.

The major characters of *Mary Barton* are the Barton and Wilson families, both reliant on employment in the cotton mills, and living in difficult conditions lacking basic sanitation and in poor housing. In times of hardship people such as they struggled to find enough work and so starvation and ill health were always threatening daily life. The author made some attempt to engage a conversation about worker rights, and the upcoming trades union movement including the call for the right to vote from the Chartists.

However, the main occupation of the novel is the story about the titled heroine, Mary Barton. A young woman left to look after her increasingly bitter and depressed widowed father, she is learning a seamstress vocation and has two keen admirers keen to secure her affections. One, Jem Wilson, works in the cotton mill and is still very much of the 'lower' order, and the other, Harry Carson, is the mill owner's son. Mary is flattered by Henry's attentions and dreams of a better life, but she has to learn the hard way about true love and integrity.

The story builds towards a climax with a shocking murder and ensuing trial at court during which the main characters are tested and challenged.

Mary Barton is a story worthy of a read, if only to paint a picture of urban England in the 1830s and 1840s during a time of significant changes and mechanical improvements in the manufacture of cotton - against the background of a decline in market demand for cotton with its consequences falling on those least able to adapt and survive. The characters are interesting and mostly plausible. Running through the book is a strongly authentic Lancashire dialect which works well in portraying the interplay between the characters.

The group's opinions varied, and it would have been helpful to the overall appraisal if the publisher had used a larger font to make it easier to read! Scores ranged from a disappointing 3 to a confident 7 and averaged a little over 5 across the group as a whole.

Caroline Poultney

Tipton St John FC

The season is now underway and at time of writing we've won one, drawn one and lost one! After the hot summer, the pitch is starting to recover and over the next few weeks we'll be working on it with an over seed and added fertiliser to give it some strength going forward during the winter. As always the pitch will get waterlogged during the wet months ahead so the league is loading our fixture list with home games throughout September and October. With this in mind I'd appreciate dog owners to not allow their dogs to exercise on the pitch. I've seen an increase of chewed up sticks being left on the pitch. Sharp wooden shards are dangerous when undetected to players of our club and West Hill Wasps U16 youth team who share our pitch. Player safety is paramount and a missed shard of wood could cause a serious injury. The football pitch is not a dog exercise area.



If you didn't already know, this is the football club's centenary year and in August we held a game commemorating our centenary against an Ottery Carnival XI. This was a fundraiser for both organisations with profits split 50-50. In a tight game the Ottery Carnival XI team won the game 6-5 but a great day was had by all.

We continue to drive the club forward on and off the pitch and if you fancy some Saturday football then all our future fixtures are listed on the fixture board, located at the entrance to the car park.



Up the Johns !!

Kevin Sexton

A Visit to Chawton House - Jane Austen, but More

Recently I went with Tony on an organised visit to see the house and estate formerly owned by Jane Austen's brother, Edward. In the latter seven years of her life, Jane lived with her mother and sister in an estate cottage close by, a peaceful and secure time for her, when her writing was most prolific.

My (isolated) school prize was Jane Austen. I return again and again to her few books so it's surprising I had not managed to visit her home so far.

Originally a deer park in 1224, the original building's foundations were recently found beneath the Great Hall floorboards. The Jacobean and Tudor house had many fascinating details - 'protection marks' scratched by fireplace and doors to stop evil penetrating weak spots; lines of inheritance in brightly-coloured coats of arms set in the wobbly, leaded window panes; initials carved in floorboards; the dining room set with twelve places (and their portraits) for the



extended Austen/Knight family - Jane appearing in a minor position near the foot of the table. Jane's brother Edward had changed his name to Knight to fulfil a qualification of the inheritance.

We heard that most of the fine houses in this Royalist area had been burnt to the ground by the Parliamentary army but Chawton had been saved by the solitary lady and her two-year-old son meeting the invaders and inviting them to dine!

Upstairs revealed still further interest. In 1987 American businesswoman, Sandy Lerner, bought a 125 year lease on the Chawton house and estate and set about pursuing her Jane Austen enthusiasm by creating a library of over 9,000 books highlighting English women writers from 1600 to 1830. After some years of renovation and restoration the Chawton House Library opened in 2003. The collection is made available for research with nine university study opportunities each year.

We viewed the library walls lined alphabetically floor to ceiling with volumes, starting in the top corner with 'A' and featuring Austen; two Jane Austen First Editions also in secure storage.

The displays were revealing. By the late 1700s women's writing was prolific (though 'the novel' was often scorned) and the year 1775 saw more publications by women than men. Not just popular romantic and 'horrid' gothic fiction, though. The 2,500 books range widely: Travel and Etiquette; Women's Suffrage and Servant Management; Laundry, Recipes, Slavery ... Women such as Mary Knowles (1733-1807), Hannah More (1745-1833), Amelia Opie (1769-1853) and Frances Kemble (1809-1893) wrote works condemning slavery. Mary Prince (1788-1833) wrote her autobiography as an escaped Bermuda slave. Back in 1688 Aphra Behn's novel *Oroonoko* dramatised the plight of African slaves.

Slavery. You might be surprised. Many have criticized that Jane Austen made no mention of the Napoleonic wars, the slave-owning wealth or politics of the day in any of her quiet domestic novels. But in titling *Mansfield Park* she reminded readers of Lord Chief Justice William Mansfield who had pronounced in 1772 that there should be no slave on British soil, opening the pathway to (eventual) abolition by declaring slavery "odious", neither "allowed or approved by the law of England". *Mansfield Park* (Jane's favourite) was, however, the least well-reviewed of the Austen novels: in fact, the reviewers' icy disregard said all. Huge money was at stake in those times and a book which rocked the boat at all was to be pointedly ignored. Emancipation is at the heart of *Mansfield Park*, examining Fanny Price's domestic subjection, the luxurious life at the Park, the distant slave plantations and their international trade ominously in the background. When Fanny questions Sir Thomas Bertram about the slave trade on his return from Antigua, there is stony silence in the drawing room.

So much to see, the ninety-minute tour left us tired, but only thirsting for more time - also thirsting for *restauration* at The Greyhound close by!

Immediately opposite the Inn was Jane Austen's House but, unusually on this day, it was closed for brief refurbishment. That was a relief, actually, as it will surely take another visit. Something to look forward to.

Garden News

I felt so terrible when I realised that I've never written about Jean Kotch's garden so I promised her I'd put that right. Although many more of you will have seen it at the open gardens I toddled down to her house for a welcome cuppa and took my notebook to get some details about this much loved, colourful and productive garden.



In Barton Orchard and Rise we all love walking down the road and stop to look at the front garden which she tells me was a very ordinary patch with a bit of grass. The grass came up and gravel was put down which appears in the soil to this day. Now it is a bed of interest throughout the year. It's got some structural shrubs such as azaleas and roses then some perennials particularly a beautiful anemone that I covet each spring! On top of that Jean saves seeds from cosmos, sweet williams and Canterbury bells and they are squeezed into any little bare bit of soil. It is glorious to see. There is colour well into the autumn.

There is always a display of pots with geraniums and fuchsias along the wall and up to the front door. Again she takes cuttings and is generous in giving them to us all. She has a great undercover place to keep tender plants through the winter and then the display begins again. The conservatory is often pretty full over winter too!



She moved to the house in 1999 and the back garden was a concrete wasteland with a few rubbish bushes on a bank. This has been transformed to a bank full of azaleas, rhododendrons and acers and below, a garden so well designed. She regarded it as a long term creative project. So there are all the facets you'd like to see in a garden – a seating area, a pergola, a pond and a tiny patch of grass – all surrounded by a wide selection of plants. In particular there is an Armandii clematis (I've killed two of those) and passion flower, both purple and white. It is a wildlife garden especially for birds. There are two bird baths, one of which is a newish addition. Jean is always adding new things – the latest being a vine which will trail over the pergola providing shade in these hot summers. She has had to

keep filling the pond during the dry period to keep her newts alive. She has had some new steps curving up to the bank so she can access things towards the back of the garden. They make an attractive feature. Beyond her fence is a Clerodendrum tree which would be too big to have in the garden but it is a lovely tree to be able to see over the fence.



I mentioned that it is a productive garden, too. Raspberries grow very well as do blueberries grown in especially constructed containers made by a friend in the village. In the summer there are courgettes, beans and tomatoes ... I'm not sure how they all fit in but they do. I know that because sometimes I water them all when she is away!! I should mention strawberries too ... again some special containers and she has planted up all the runners ready for next years planting and cropping. She's always thinking ahead and ready for action at the start of a new growing year.

So I'm sorry it took so long, Jean, but thank you for the visit and let's hope there will be many more throughout the seasons.

Alison Stevens

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



Tipton School

I am pressing for an update on the site appraisal work by DCC and hope to have further information in October - I will keep you posted.

Fluxton Sewage Treatment Works

I have had a number of complaints about excessive noise from the Sewage Treatment Works at Fluxton. East Devon District Council has identified that there is indeed excessive noise at the 200 hz frequency which is believed to emanate from the Sewage Treatment Works. East Devon District Council's environmental health team have already met with South West Water on site and are now carrying out further investigations. If you are affected by this noise please get in touch with me.

Otter Trail

With a new administration at the helm at County Hall it feels like there is a renewed impetus to get the Otter Trail off the ground. The multi-use trail would ultimately link Sidmouth and Feniton - it would be fantastic to see the project at least started. This is something that I am really keen to push for. I recently met with Cllr Denise Bickley, the new Devon County Councillor for Sidmouth, and together we are going to be meeting with Council Officers to discuss the trail later this month.

Carbon Action Fund open for applications

EDDC have recently launched a Carbon Action Fund which is offering grants of between £2,000 and £30,000 to eligible businesses and community organisations for the installation of decarbonisation equipment such as solar panels, heat pumps and LED lighting. The deadline is 4pm on Monday 10th November and details can be found on EDDC's website. Last year 28 organisations secured grants.

Exeter City Council's ambitions for East Devon

Did you know that Exeter City Council wants to expand its boundaries to take in much of East Devon? The Government's plan for local government re-organisation is set to see the abolition of county and district councils and the creation of very large unitary authorities instead. The Government is calling on local authorities to put forward their proposals for how local government in Devon and other areas would work. Exeter City Council's controversial proposal would see Exeter's area include large swathes of East Devon including West Hill, Aylesbeare, Whimble and Rockbeare but not Tipton or Ottery. Under Exeter's proposal Tipton would be included in a unitary authority that is basically everything in Devon apart from Exeter and Plymouth. Exeter City Council are consulting on their proposal via their website until 26th September. Local authorities are required to submit their proposals to central Government before 28th November. Devon County and East Devon will also be putting forward their own proposals although these have not been published yet.

I am not in favour of local government re-organisation at all because it is going to create giant unitary authorities, taking away power and decision making from local people. Whatever unitary authorities are created, it is a hugely time consuming process and costly exercise which is sapping focus away from residents' priorities and improving services.

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

West Hill Men's Supper Club

We gather monthly, usually on the 2nd Monday, for a couple of drinks followed by a two course meal and a talk by an invited speaker. The topics for the two autumn meetings are:

13th October :	Operational Detective - from an ex Chief Inspector
10th November :	Exmouth National Coastwatch Institution

Our venue is the Narthex annex to St Michael's Church in West Hill starting at 6.45pm. We charge £25 (cash) which includes drinks and the meal.

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

I am writing this from a wet and windy Loire Atlantique, feeling very much like home. Not much to report, as it's the end of holiday season, other than to welcome our new Tipton co-Councillor, Sarah Martin, who was co-opted on to the council at the August meeting. Although Sarah lives in Ottery, I'm sure she will be an asset to our village and local community. As usual, if you have any issues, please don't hesitate to contact me.



Cllr Janice Aherne
Tel 07508 308569
Janice.aherne@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Sarah Martin Ottery St Mary Town Councillor, Tipton St John Ward

I'm honoured to have been co-opted to represent Tipton St John Ward on Ottery St Mary Town Council following the resignation of Matt Williamson.

Although I don't live in the village itself, I greatly value Tipton's strong community spirit, rural character, and the pride residents take in their local area. Living outside the village can be an advantage in certain Council matters, such as the proposed relocation of the primary school. As I am not directly affected, I have no registerable interest in the issue, allowing me to remain in meetings, take part in discussions, and vote - ensuring both continuity and impartiality in decision-making.

I'm committed to being a visible and active councillor, attending village events, listening to residents and working with local groups to support the wellbeing and future of the community. My role is to make sure Tipton's voice is heard clearly within the wider council and that local issues are not overlooked.

I believe local government should be accessible and responsive, and I welcome contact from anyone wishing to raise an issue, share a concern or put forward an idea. I look forward to working with Janice Aherne to represent the village's interests and serve the people of Tipton St John to the best of my ability.

Planned Local Road Closures

Gerway Lane to Burcombe Grange, Wiggaton

Date: Tuesday 7 October 2025

Time: Between 9.30am and 3.30pm

Details: This nearby closure may affect journeys between Tipton St John, Wiggaton and Ottery St Mary. Alternative routes will be signposted.

Both closures are expected to last just one day, but may extend for up to five days if required. Please allow extra time for your journeys and follow any local signage.

Hayne Hill, Tipton St John

Date: Tuesday 28 October 2025

Time: Between 9.30am and 3.30pm

Details: This road will be closed to through traffic during the day for essential maintenance. If you normally travel this way, please follow the signed diversion route.

Ottery St Mary Full Council Meeting – Everyone Welcome

The next Full Council Meeting of Ottery St Mary Town Council will be held in Tipton St John.

Venue: Tipton St John Community Hall

Date: Monday 6 October 2025

Time: Starting at 7.00pm

This is a great opportunity to find out what's happening locally, raise any concerns and connect with your town councillors. All residents are warmly invited to attend.

For further details on the roadworks or the council meeting, please visit the Devon County Council or Ottery St Mary Town Council websites.

Cllr Sarah Martin
sarah.martin@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk



OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL

Report of Ottery St Mary Town Council Meeting 1st September 2025

Ottery Town Councillors gathered for their September meeting to discuss a wide range of local matters, from community grants to infrastructure updates. EDDC Cllr Bethany Collins and EDDC Cllr Vicky Johns sent written reports which are available on the Council website.

EDDC Cllr Peter Faithfull reported that at a recent EDDC Planning Committee meeting he had identified an insufficient water tank size in relation to a planning application. The size of the tank was not questioned by EDDC. Cllr Faithfull reiterated the need to check any information provided with an application. A Local Devolution meeting was held by EDDC with town and parish Council representatives.

Cllr Jess Bailey was delayed at another parish meeting and so was unable to attend.

The Planning Committee, Finance and Strategic Planning Committee, Community Infrastructure Committee and Operations Committee have met this month and a copy of the minutes is available on the Council website.

The Council awarded a £2,000 community grant to the Ottery Larder and will be meeting again with Project Food to discuss their grant application further.

The Council will be writing to EDDC to request that they can lease a piece of land at the Land of Canaan where they could install some form of community shelter.

The Council adopted updated Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

EDDC held a meeting for Towns and Parishes to provide an update on the local government review. The slides have been circulated to Councillors and detailed potential assets that could be transferred to the Councils through Community Asset Transfer. The Clerk has requested a meeting with EDDC to discuss this further and to obtain some associated costs with the assets mentioned.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the possible reinstatement of the removed footbridge at the Land of Canaan. EDDC did not feel it was a beneficial use of public money as it was located so close to an existing footbridge. However Councillors felt it would change the dynamic of the area. It was AGREED that the Council will revisit this once a decision has been made regarding whether any community assets will be transferred to the Council.

The Mayor opened the (in)visible photographic display by Theo Moya in association with Action East Devon at the Ottery St Mary Library and encouraged people to visit.

Future Full Council meeting dates:

Monday 6 th October 2025	Tipton St John Community Hall
Monday 3 rd November 2025	Council Offices
Monday 1 st December 2025	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.

Pop in and say hello! The Ottery St Mary Town Council Offices are open Monday to Friday, 10am–1pm, and we're here to help. Got a question or need assistance? Give us a call or drop us an email (contact details are below). Stay in the loop by following us on Facebook, Instagram or visit our website at www.otterystmary-tc.gov.uk, where you'll find agendas, minutes, and all the latest Council news and updates.

Kerry Kennell
Town Clerk

Ottery St Mary Town Council
8 Broad St, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1BZ
Tel: 01404 812252
Email: admin@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk

Tipton Times Weather - September 2025

It's raining again, at last! I heard an amazingly long rumble of thunder this morning. I remember back in March wondering if we were ever going to take our new dog for a walk without coming back soaked and plastered in mud, but since early May it has been incredibly dry all summer. For many years I have said, only half-jokingly, that our best summer forecasting rule was that it would start raining as soon as the school holidays started, but this year it stayed dry until the very end of August. For the first time in 22 years, we had to resort to putting tap water into our garden pond.

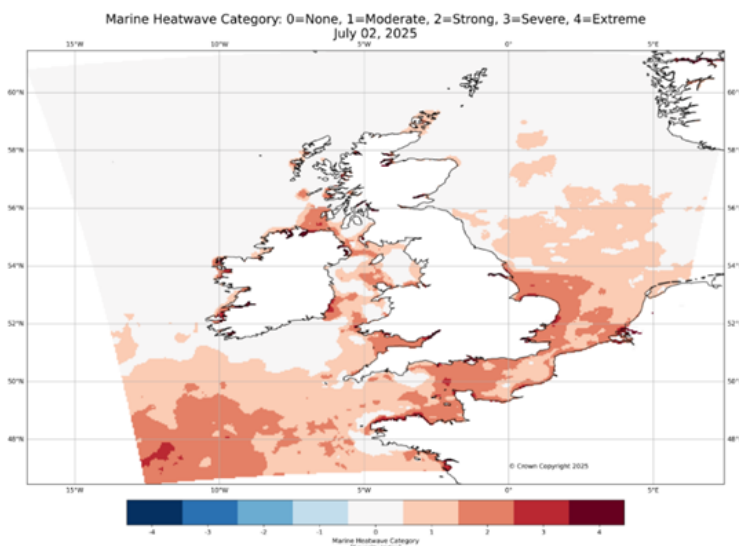
It has also been exceptionally warm - in fact, the warmest summer on record for the UK. When I talk about climate change bringing warmer drier summers, people often say we've always had hot summers - "I remember 1976". Many of us do remember 1976 if we are old enough, because it was so exceptional at the time, but actually 2025 has just pushed it out of the Top 5, which are now all in the 21st century: 2025 (16.10°C), 2018 (15.76°C), 2006 (15.75°C), 2003 (15.74°C) and 2022 (15.71°C). Note how the other 4 are close to each other, 15.7 and a bit, whereas 2025 at 16.10 is 0.34°C warmer than the next. That may not sound much, but the fact that the others are so close illustrates that it is significant.

If we dig a little deeper into the figures, we find that 1976 was drier than 2025 and still holds the record for the warmest daytime peak temperatures. 2025 had fewer really hot days than 1976 and of course didn't hit the all-time record of 40.3°C set in July 2022. It was the average temperatures, day and night, which broke all the records.

So, what caused the warmth this summer? I have already noted that the warmest years have all been since the millenium, which points towards the general warming trend of climate change. In addition, this summer saw high pressure over the UK for most of the summer, which gave us long sunshine hours and caused the lack of rain. Another important factor was a marine heatwave, with sea-surface temperatures 1-2 degrees warmer than usual all around the south, including the English Channel near us (see the map).

The persistent high pressure also drove this marine heatwave, with light winds reducing wave action and allowing the upper layers to warm. Regular readers of this column will know that I have talked a lot about slow-moving weather systems in recent years, linked with big loopy waves in the jet stream. This seems to be an effect of climate change and while last summer (2024) it kept us in rather wet low pressure for long periods, this summer it kept us consistently under the high pressure. So, with both general warming and slow-moving systems, this summer does have a strong signal of climate change, and we should expect more of the same. Studies have shown that a few decades ago we could have expected a summer like 2025 once every 340 years; now more like once every 5 years.

For many of us, especially in school holidays, it's been a lovely summer. We have certainly enjoyed dry dog walks, warm evenings and sea swimming. Climate change has its benefits! Watering the garden was a nuisance and our pond did suffer, but if you enjoyed the summer then spare a thought for our local farmers who are really short of winter feed. The warmer seas are also having effects on marine ecosystems, with stress on species such as mussels, oysters, and salmon, while others like bluefin tuna, sea bass and jellyfish are being seen more in our waters. Unfortunately, the negative impacts tend to exceed the benefits and with no sign of climate change slowing down, we should expect more of the same.



A snapshot of the marine heatwave: temperatures compared to normal on 2nd July 2025.

Ken Mylne



Voluntary Car Park Contributions Coming to the Pebblebed Heaths

From October 2025, visitors to the Pebblebed Heaths will have the option to make a voluntary contribution when using our heathland car parks. These donations will directly support the work that keeps the heaths safe, accessible, and nature-rich - now and into the future.

Every year, over 900,000 visits are made to the Pebblebed Heaths. While it's wonderful to see so many people enjoying the landscape, this increasing use brings growing pressure on wildlife, paths, parking infrastructure, and our ability to maintain the reserve to a high standard. Looking after the heaths comes at a cost - government funding for vital habitat management activities is declining, but demand and visitor pressure is ever increasing.

Nevertheless, our ambitions for nature remain high. We're committed to enhancing biodiversity, improving access, and deepening public engagement. That's why now is the right time to introduce this scheme and help secure the future of this special place.

The new **voluntary car park contributions** scheme offers everyone a simple way to give back, if they wish to, by making a contribution via RingGo at participating car parks. All revenue from this scheme will be invested in the heaths, funding conservation work, trail maintenance, education and more - keeping the site in great condition for everyone to enjoy now and for future generations to come. Access to the heaths remains completely free. The Pebblebed Heaths are open access land, and everyone has the right to explore on foot, by bike, or on horseback. Parking contributions are optional - there's no penalty for choosing not to donate.

What contributions will support:

- Maintaining car parks and dog waste bins
- Caring for paths and tracks
- Protecting rare wildlife and sensitive habitats
- Supporting volunteers, education and community events
- Responding to fires, fly-tipping and other incidents
- Managing these fragile ecosystems in a changing climate

Contributions can be made easily via RingGo at participating car parks. If you'd like to make an even bigger impact, donations through our website allow you to set up a regular gift, help us plan conservation work with confidence, and even add Gift Aid at no extra cost. As a small thank you, a regular gift of £5/month or £50/year earns a Pebblebed Heaths windshield sticker to show your support.

More information and FAQs: <https://www.pebblebedheaths.org.uk/voluntary-car-park-contributions/>



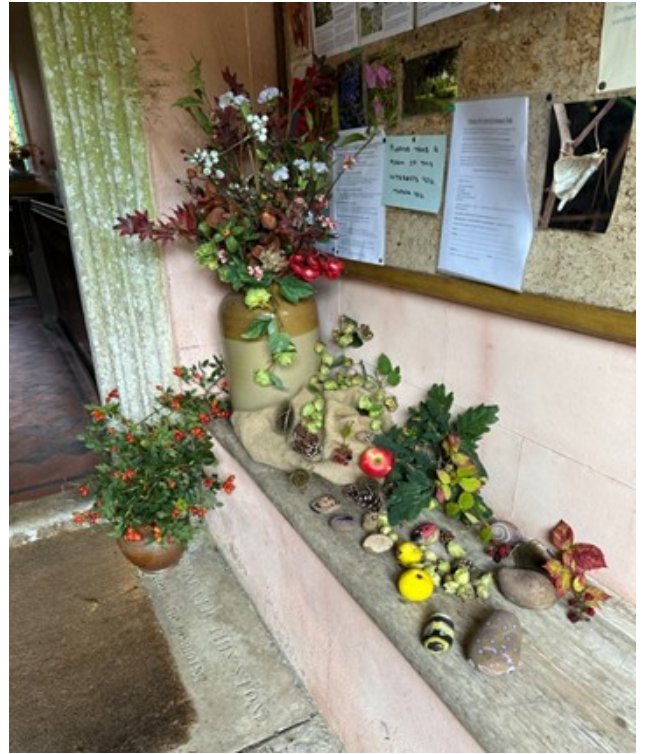
Please join us for a Full Moon Walk at Ariadne's Thread on the North West corner of the playing field. We will use the labyrinth as a sacred space - to walk, reflect and slow down in today's frenetic world. All are welcome, it will be dark so please bring a torch and warm clothing. Hope to see you there.

Lisette Johnson

VOSRA - Beautiful Harvest Festival

About forty people attended the Harvest Festival at St Gregory's church on Sunday 7th September at 11am, led by Caroline Poultney. The service also celebrated the patronal feast of St Gregory. A beautiful service and seasonal thanksgiving hymns were followed by a lunch of sandwiches, cake and hot drinks - our thanks to everyone involved in preparing the wonderful food.

Thanks also go out to everyone at the harvest service and before, who brought donations of food, toiletries and fresh fruit for St Petrocks Charity in Exeter and the food larder at Newton Poppleford. Looking up at the beautiful stained-glass windows, you could not help but wonder about the countless local residents who have celebrated harvest festival over the past centuries. As always, the church was beautifully decorated - many thanks for Judith and her team for all their hard work and creativity.



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

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

VOSRA Committee Members



Sadly in July Valerie Reed passed away. She lived latterly in Sidmouth where she and her husband Tony had lived before he passed away in 2024. Previously they had both lived in Tipton for many years and had become an important part of both our farming and village community. A few years ago I was lucky enough to have tea and biscuits with them both and we reminisced about the past of their lives on the at Hayne and Woods.



Hayne Farm painted by William Coutts

river fields. Milking was done by hand in the shippen building attached to the side of the farmhouse. You could walk from the kitchen though the dairy into the cows' parlour without going outside! Milk would be collected daily from the farm; churns of fresh milk would be placed on the high concrete plinth by the side of the road for collection which was then taken to Exeter. Valerie remembered that if the driver was running late and had to wait at the level crossing rolling gates for the train to pass through, he would impatiently push the gates open with the bumper of his lorry, much to the annoyance of Mr Wonnacot who controlled the station gates.

The farmwork was still done with horses back then, with Valerie remembering there being at least four working horses. Her uncle was a keen mechanic, so it wasn't long before tractors and machinery were introduced to modernise the farm labour force.

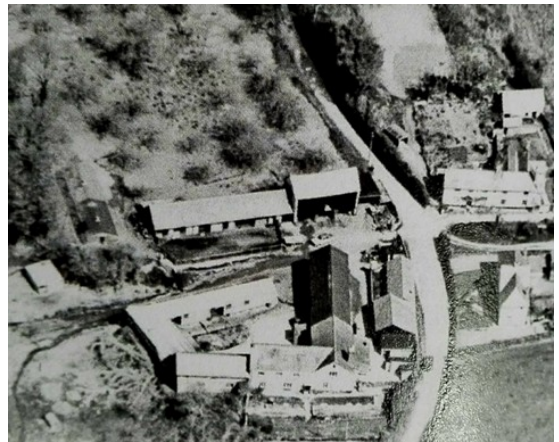
Valerie was born at Hayne and along with her sister Elaine attended Tipton school. Later Valerie attended a school in Exeter. She then worked in a bank in Budleigh where she would cycle to and from, whatever

Farmyard at Hayne, now houses



They told me how Valerie's family, the Askews, answered an advert for a tenancy at Hayne Farm. They came down from Yorkshire in the 1920s on the train, bringing all of their livestock with them. Once they were disembarked from the train onto the station siding, the animals: cows; sheep; pigs; were all walked up the road to their new home at Hayne Farm. Valerie told me that the family became known in the village for talking with their 'strange' northern Yorkshire accent.

The family kept pigs and chickens under the apple trees in the orchards and cows grazed the meadow



Aerial shot of Hayne

the weather. Valerie's memories from growing up in the village were playing tennis along with her mother at the court behind the post office. She and her friends would walk up to the cottage in Harpford Woods where they would play and get a drink and a biscuit. The family became part of the congregation of the small church at Heathlands on the edge of the common at Metcombe. Valerie attended Colaton Raleigh Young Farmers Club and there she met her future husband, Anthony Reed from Sidbury. They later married at Ottery St Mary Congregational Church followed by a honeymoon in Jersey.

When the tenancy at Hayne came to an end, the family moved their farm, lock stock and barrel, up to Woods Farm (many would now know this as the donkey sanctuary farm) at the brow of the hill, next to Harpford Woods on the road to Sidmouth. At first there was no water or electricity on the site but the family modernised and extended the farmhouse to accommodate the extended family. A new dairy unit was also built. Anthony, or Tony as many knew him, was in charge of the milking shed and was well known for his late-night milking. If you came back from Sidmouth late at night you would often see the light still on in the milking parlour at well past midnight. Tony was a late night milker.



Woods Farm

The farm provided most of Tipton homes and Sidmouth hotels with eggs and potatoes. Valerie was well known for her speedy deliveries, although one day the van accidentally slid and went onto its side. Although no one was hurt, all the eggs on board were scrambled. Tony and Valerie continued to support village events especially at the Playing Fields, with Valerie providing wonderful lunches and teas at Summer Fairs and Horseshows. Valerie, Elaine and her mother also took part in many village shows in the village hall along with the WI.

When they retired, they both moved to Sidmouth where Tony became a Councillor and, along with support from Valerie, he did some great work for the area. They provided land for the first recycling centre that was next to Harpford Woods, and also were great supporters of the Sidmouth Carnival. They were always very giving of their time and always welcomed me into their home.

I was so glad that I got some time to reflect with them both on their lives.

Our condolences go to their daughter Jeannette, their grandson David and family.

Judith Taylor

Ottery Choral Society - Schubert's Mass in E Flat

We are a non-auditioning community choir who sing classical choral music. Contact osmcs@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to sing with us. On **Saturday December 13th**, we will be performing Schubert's beautiful 6th Mass in E Flat, and a selection of Christmas carols that you can join in with, in Ottery Parish Church.

Franz Peter Schubert was born in 1797 in Vienna, the twelfth child to parents who were immigrants to Austria from what is now Slovakia. The family was poor, his father a primary school teacher. They were a large, devoted family who spotted Franz's musical talents early on. He passed an audition and entrance exam to win a scholarship to the prestigious Vienna Akademisches Gymnasium (Academic Grammar) school in 1808. This was a full-time boarding school where teaching and discipline were strict and living conditions were spartan, but here Schubert made life-long friends with the sons of many of Vienna's most wealthy and influential families.



By 1826, helped by his prominent friends, Schubert was receiving commissions for grander works. In spring 1828 he was conducting his music at private parties in the higher echelons of Austro-Hungarian society, such as Princess von Kinsky of the Habsburg dynasty. It is likely that Michael Leiternmayer, the Choirmaster of the Holy Trinity church in Vienna and a former school friend, requested this Mass, which Schubert finished in June 1828. Schubert died in November 1828, most likely from bacterial typhoid fever. He was suffering mercury poisoning from medication he was taking for syphilis, and serious malnutrition because he was not eating properly, so the infection quickly overwhelmed him. The first performance of the Mass was in the Holy Trinity Church on October 4th, 1829, a year after Schubert's death, directed by his brother Ferdinand, himself an accomplished musician. Critics were polarised: they thought it was either the work of a genius, and loved it, or had difficulty accepting its unconventional structure.

Come and make up your own mind!

Peter Hudson

Ottery Library

Hello from Ottery Library!

We have had a very busy summer at Ottery St Mary Library, with lots of children taking part in our new summer holidays reading challenge - the Summer Book Quest. In order to complete the quest, children had to complete a mix of visiting the library, reading books and taking part in some of the suggested activities. This years theme was 'Underwater' so activities included drawing a sea creature, going rock pooling, and doing a five minute beach clean. Lots of children went on to sign up for our year-round reading challenge 'The Secret Book Quest' - this is a free challenge, where children are set a goal of reading 50 books, they get stickers along the way, and if they can reach 50 books they receive a certificate and a special badge.

We continue to run our regular groups including:

Bounce & Rhyme - every Friday in term time 09:30 - 10:00

Baby Weigh - every Friday 10:00 - 12:00

Craft & a Cuppa - every Friday 14:00 - 15:30

Family History - every Friday 16:00 - 17:30 (Booking required)

Lego Club - every Friday 16:00 - 17:00

Monthly Book Club via Zoom

Monthly Children's Book Club

We also run some ad hoc events, so please keep an eye out on our website/Facebook pages for information on these.

Ottery Library Friends continue to be very active. They are a really friendly group of people who work to support our library - in both raising funds for our Library, helping to promote our Library and organising events at the Library. If you would like to be involved, please do get in touch. They are currently seeking a new Treasurer/Deputy Treasurer.

Finally, we have had to temporarily amend our opening times. Please see below our current opening hours.

We hope to see you soon!



Welcome to OTTERY ST MARY LIBRARY

Opening Hours

Monday	10am – 12:30pm, 2pm – 5pm
Tuesday	5pm – 7pm*
Wednesday	10am – 1pm*
Thursday	10am – 1pm
Friday	10am – 12.30pm, 2pm – 6pm
Saturday	10am – 1pm
Sunday	Closed

*Open with Library Extra Volunteers, some services may not be available.

 01404 813 838

 discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk

 ottery.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk

Libraries Unlimited is a registered charity 1170092. Every penny raised supports local library services.
To donate, please visit librariesunlimited.org.uk

Kerry Carr (Library Supervisor)

Ottery St Mary Library

01404 81383

ottery.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk

The Festival of Harvest

While attending the Service at St Gregory's, which was the first of three harvest celebrations to be held in Tipton and Venn Ottery this year, I started to wonder about the origins of this festival and the ways that the change in seasons and the bringing in of the harvest (from the Anglo-Saxon word for autumn, 'haerfest') are celebrated.

A harvest festival occurs around the time of the main harvest of a given region. Given the differences in climate and crops around the world, harvest festivals can be found at various times at different places, typically featuring feasting, both family and public, with foods that are drawn from the harvested crops.

In Ethiopia, Irreecha is a harvest festival and thanksgiving, marking the end of the rainy season and the beginning of the harvest. The Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival (中秋節) is one of the most widely spread harvest festivals in the world, while In Iran Mehrgan was celebrated in an extravagant style at Persepolis.

In India, Makar Sankranti, Thai Pongal, Uttarayana, Lohri, and Magh Bihu or Bhogali Bihu in January, Holi in February - March, Vaisakhi in April and Onam in August - September are a few important harvest festivals. Jews celebrate the week-long harvest festival of Sukkot in the autumn. Observant Jews build a temporary hut or shack called a sukkah, and spend the week living, eating, sleeping, and praying inside it. It is reminiscent of the tabernacles Israelite farmers would live in during the harvest, at the end of which they would bring a portion of the harvest to the Temple in Jerusalem.

In Britain, thanks have been given for successful harvests since pagan times. Traditionally the Harvest Festival is celebrated in the Northern Hemisphere on the Sunday closest to the full moon which is nearest to that year's Autumn Equinox (when day and night are of equal length). However, an early harvest festival used to be celebrated at the beginning of the harvest season on 1 August and was called Lammas, meaning 'loaf mass'. Farmers made loaves of bread from the fresh wheat crop. These were given to the local church as the Communion bread during a special service thanking God for the harvest.

By the sixteenth century, several customs seem to have been firmly established around the gathering of the final harvest. They include the reapers accompanying a fully laden cart; a tradition of shouting "Hooky, hooky"; and one of the foremost reapers dressing extravagantly, acting as 'lord' of the harvest and asking for money from the onlookers. A corn dolly was made from the last sheaf of corn harvested. The corn dolly often had a place of honour at the banquet table, and was kept until the following spring. The horse bringing the last cartload was decorated with garlands of flowers and colourful ribbons.



Until the 20th century, most farmers celebrated the end of the harvest with a big meal called the harvest supper, to which all who had helped in the harvest were invited. Some churches and villages still have a Harvest Supper. The modern British tradition of celebrating the Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as *Come, ye thankful people, come* and *All things bright and beautiful* but also Dutch and German harvest hymns in translation (for example, *We plough the fields and scatter*) helped popularise his idea of a harvest festival, and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service. Harvest time involves a whole array of crops, including apples, cherries, hops and potatoes. For families living in polluted parts of London in the early half of the 20th century, an annual September trip to the hop fields of Kent provided a breath of fresh air. For many children, it was a rare chance to see the countryside, encountering their first cows and running free around the woods and fields.

As British people have come to rely less heavily on home-grown produce, there has been a shift in emphasis in many Harvest Festival celebrations. Increasingly, churches have linked Harvest with an awareness of and concern for people in the developing world for whom growing crops of sufficient quality and quantity remains a struggle. People bring in produce from their garden, allotment or farm, and even tinned and packaged food. Typically surplus produce is given away to a local charity, hospital or children's home, or auctioned for charity. The festival is also about giving thanks for all the good and positive things in people's lives, such as family and friendships.

So, all over the world from the earliest times it is really all about saying 'Thank you'!

Church Calendar For October & November 2025

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

October

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.
Sunday	12 th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
Sunday	19 th	10.30 am	Café Church	Community Hall
Sunday	26 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion with Baptism	T.S.J.

November

Sunday	2 nd	10.00 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion <i>All Souls Remembering our Loved Ones</i>	N.Pop O.S.M. T.S.J.
Saturday *	8 th	10.00 am	Coffee Morning and produce stall	Community Hall
Remembrance Sunday	9 th	10.55 am	Remembrance Day Service	T.S.J.
Sunday	16 th	10.30 am	Café Church	Community Hall
Sunday	23 rd	9.30 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
Sunday	30 th	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Service of the Word Team Advent Carol Service	T.S.J. O.S.M.

December

Saturday	6 th	10.00 am	Christmas Coffee Morning, cakes and produce stall	Community Hall
Sunday	7 th	10.00 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	N.Pop O.S.M.

**NOTE : Revised date of November Coffee Morning on 8th not 1st*

ONLINE SERVICES

In addition to the live services and events listed above, an online Service of Worship takes place at 10 am on the following Sundays : 5th & 19th October and 2nd & 16th November.
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.

Remembering at Tipton
Sunday 2nd November All Souls 3 pm
Remembering our Loved Ones
Sunday 9th November at 10.55 am
Remembrance Sunday Service

Diary Dates - October and November

All dates correct at the time of publication.

Art, Craft, Hobbies and Pastimes Group

Tipton Community Hall, from 2.30 - 4.30pm every Thursday until Christmas except for October 30th.

£2.00 a session, no joining fee.



October

4th Oct	10am	Volunteer tidying at the Playing Field	P7
6th Oct	7pm	Labyrinth Moon Walk, Playing Field	P24
11th Oct	10.30am	Carer Support Group at Brambledown, Green Lane	P9
11th Oct	2pm	BBC Children in need ramble, Community Hall	P5
20th Oct	7pm	Tipton Ladies Seaside talk, Community Hall	P9
30th & 31st Oct	7.30pm	TIPPS The Full Treatment, Community Hall	P5

November

1st Nov	2pm	TIPPS The Full Treatment, Community Hall	P5
2nd Nov	7pm	Quiz Night, Community Hall	P14
3rd Nov	7.30pm	Playing Field AGM, Community Hall	P7
4th Nov	7pm	Labyrinth Moon Walk, Playing Field	P24
8th Nov	10.30am	Carer Support Group at Brambledown, Green Lane	P9
8th Nov	7pm	Tony Harris as Margaret Thatcher, Community Hall	P14
13th Nov	7.30pm	Cricket Club AGM, Community Hall	P13
17th Nov	7pm	Tipton Ladies Christmas talk, Community Hall	P9

December

3rd Dec	7pm	Labyrinth Moon Walk, Playing Field	P24
7th Dec	7pm	Quiz Night, Community Hall	P14



Judith Taylor

BBC Children in Need

Saturday October 11th

Community Hall Tipton St John

Local Ramble and Tea

Ramble starts 2pm

Teas from 3.15pm

Come for either or both

All proceeds to Children in Need



Community Hall at 7pm

Quiz Nights are back!

(teams of up to 6 people)

**Sundays 28th September
2nd November
7th December**

£4 per head (cash or card)

**Please bring your own food,
drinks and glasses**

contact Brian Rice 811396

rice196@btinternet.com



Tipton St John
Community
Hall

Thursday 30th Oct at 7:30pm

Friday 31st Oct at 7:30pm

Saturday 1st Nov at 2:00 pm

Tickets £10 from:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/TIPPS

or Tipton Stores



NODA
for every stage

THE IRON LADY

TIPTON ST. JOHN COMMUNITY HALL
Charity no: 1071367

The highly amusing
TONY HARRIS
Returns to us, following
hilarious stints as Henry
VIII, Winston Churchill
and as a panto dame.
This time as Maggie
Thatcher!

TIPTON ST. JOHN COMMUNITY HALL
Saturday 8th November 2025
7pm for a 7:30pm start
Tickets £25 to include a fish and chip supper.
Contact Brian Rice - tel: 07810 302480
or email: rice196@btinternet.com