



TIPTON TIMES

331

FEBRUARY
AND MARCH 2026

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Beast from the East
March 2018

PETER PAN
FLYING IN
SHORTLY!

WILL
IT
SNOW??

OTTERY LIBRARY
- ITS FUTURE?

TIPTON SCHOOL
GOVERNORS
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Andy Wiltshire and family

COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

Snow falling in March 2018

photo courtesy of Paul Taylor

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Editorial

Welcome to the first Tipton Times of 2026. We would have liked the front cover to display a recent local winter scene but, as you can see, we've had to make do with a photo from March 2018, when we had to endure 'The Beast from the East'. Let's hope our spring this year is more congenial. You can, however, read a fascinating account of our brush with the recent Storm Goretti from Ken Mylne on page 19. Many thanks to Ann Knight for her review of 2025 on pages 4 and 5.

There is much to look forward to over the next few weeks, not least the unmissable TIPPS production of JM Barrie's Peter Pan in February, written and adapted by our own Natalie Anning and Clare Devin.

It is worth catching up with our local councillors' columns (pages 22-24) which include important information about the future of Ottery Library. More importantly, Marilyn Spidell's article on page 17 includes more detail on the likely consequences if the county council's proposals are implemented. If you value your local library, please make your views heard via the link in Marilyn's article by February 22nd.

Do take advantage also of all the opportunities available through the Community Hall: the monthly quizzes are proving increasingly popular: 15 teams turned up to take part on 18th January. Details of all events are in Brian Rices's column on page 14.

We were so sorry to hear that Pat Keeley passed away last weekend and send our condolences to her children Caroline, Erica, Alison, Richard and their families.

The Editors

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New Year 2026

January-Janus - looking back and forward. With thanks for the past and hope for the future. I thought perhaps a good theme for an article in the first Tipton Times of the year.



Looking back at events featured in the village year I can recall, in February, the TIPPS production of Aladdin enjoyed by many and the changeover at the Golden Lion.

I think this was the first of several changes in the village. We thanked John and Pauline for their service at the Community Hall and welcomed their replacements, Brian and Jane. Judith replaced Geoff as cleaner. Stephanie took over as Chair of Tipton Ladies Group. Also, we were so pleased to have two Churchwardens again, Malcolm and Keith.

In March the TLG coffee morning raising £1,000 for the Motor Neurone Charity and, in April, the newly-formed Events Committee organised an Easter Egg Stravanganza - which unfortunately had to take place at the Community Hall due to bad weather. They also organised the V.E. Celebration on the Field which culminated in lighting the beacon.



What a busy Summer with a service on 1st June in St Gregory's starting a week of the *History of Venn Ottery Display*.

The Tipton Open Gardens in mid-June provided a lovely chance for an inspiring 'nose' around - such a variety of ideas, no two gardens alike.





The beginning of July saw a record entry for the 10k Rail and River Run raising over £4,000.

The very next weekend was the Big Family Fun Day on the Playing Field on perhaps the hottest day of the year. This involved lots of displays and stalls as well as a bar, BBQ and a Scout Village, including an exhibition of 50 years of Tipton Scouts to celebrate their Golden Anniversary.

The Church Fete, so well supported by the whole village, raised lots of money for the Church - who held not one but three Harvest Festivals in September. This month finished with a Music afternoon in St Gregory's on 28th, most enjoyable.

This year's Children-in-Need Walk and Tea took place on a lovely afternoon and raised £400. What a generous village. We must have raised close on £10,000 this year for various causes.

TIPPS' Autumn production was a nostalgic trip for yours truly and fun for cast and audience alike.



The year's high spots ended with a Carol Service at Venn Ottery with the Church looking so festive - similarly at Tipton St John. All this to enjoy - as well as regular monthly Hall quizzes and weekly clubs and societies to attend. How lucky we are to live in this vibrant place.

Now, looking forward, there will be at least two TIPPS productions, a Playing Field Summer Event, hopefully a 10 k run, a Church Fete, special Church services (as well as regular) at Tipton and Venn Ottery and I - heard rumour of - open gardens, maybe in both areas.

All you need do to enjoy all this is to read your Tipton Times, especially the calendar pages, and keep an eye on local notice boards. New faces are always welcome at events - which provide so many opportunities to catch up with familiar ones. See you around.

Ann Knight



Nature Notes

And so, it begins again. I do hope 2026 has started well for you. Just when the mud was walkable on, as opposed to in, it looks like the rain has turned it all back to a sloppy mess again. It's hard to know what is coming next after the big storm in January. Hopefully by the time you read this, winter's end will be in sight. But with February brings this old saying, "February fill-dyke, be it black or be it white, but if it's white, it's the better to like." Let's wait and see!

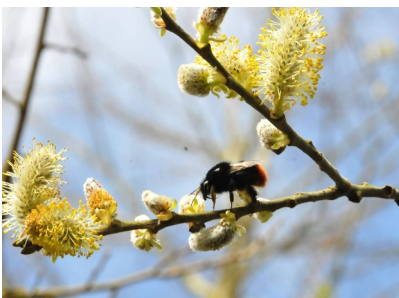
I recently had a conversation regarding Redwings, or rather the lack of sightings of them. The cold winter weather normally brings them in large flocks. A tiny population of Redwings breeds in the UK, but most of our birds come from Iceland and Scandinavia in the winter. Perhaps a dozen pairs of Redwings, and even fewer Fieldfares, stay to breed in northern Britain, but with the onset of climate breakdown that number is falling, and both may soon disappear as British breeding birds. Whether warming winters will eventually mean they stop visiting us altogether, we are unable to know. But for now their presence is very welcome. The Redwing is the UK's smallest true thrush. Look for the creamy strip above its eye and the orange-red flank patches. They roam across the UK's countryside, feeding in fields and hedgerows, rarely visiting gardens, except in the coldest weather when snow covers the fields. Redwings are classified in the UK as amber under the Birds of Conservation Concern 5: the Red List for birds (2021). Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. Listed as near-threatened on the global IUCN Red List of threatened species.

The aforementioned, grey-headed, chestnut-backed Fieldfare is the largest of the thrushes, and visits Britain and Ireland during the winter months. Fieldfares begin arriving on the UK's eastern coasts from Fennoscandia, western Russia and eastern Europe during early October. Numbers vary each year and are dependent on berry crops closer to their breeding grounds. In years when crops are poor, fieldfares move in large numbers in search of berries elsewhere and it is under these conditions that the largest numbers occur in Britain and Ireland. The Fieldfare has been on the UK Red List since 2009.



There are many other migrant species of bird with us at the moment, but a rare treat, if you get the chance to spot them, are Waxwings. Every three to four years these birds arrive in large numbers, either because of a food shortage, or particularly harsh weather conditions in their native Scandinavia. They normally arrive in the North and East of the UK, but there have been so many sightings this winter that we could be lucky enough to spot them here as they move south westwards. Waxwings have a pink crest and breast, a black mask and throat, grey rump, black tail tipped with bright yellow and yellow and white markings on its wings. They mainly eat berries on trees, but can be enticed by hanging an apple from a branch.

March is famous for mad-March-hares which are in fact the female hares resisting the optimistic advances of amorous males! With the arable crops still short, where hares can often be seen feeding, this is a good time of year to spot these beautiful and charismatic native animals. Thought to have been introduced into the UK in Roman times (or even earlier), the brown hare is now considered naturalised. It grazes on vegetation and the bark of young trees and bushes. Brown hares do not dig burrows, but shelter in 'forms', which are shallow depressions in the ground or grass; when disturbed, they can be seen bounding across the fields, using their powerful hind legs to propel them forwards, often in a zigzag pattern. They can reach speeds of 45mph when evading predators. Females can produce three to four litters of two to four young (known as leverets) a year.



In the hedgerows towards the end of the month of March, the blackthorn (also known as sloe) flowers, become visible. Bushes are covered in clouds of white blossom borne on its dark, thorn laden branches. This shrub is sometimes confused with hawthorn, but the hawthorn does not flower until May and comes into leaf before the blossom opens. Also, a sure sign of spring are the furry looking catkins of the 'pussy' willow, found in damp places. On some stone walls the ivy-leaved toadflax is starting to sprout. It quickly forms large hanging clumps with its fleshy,

ivy like leaves. It later supports multiple miniature mauve and yellow snapdragon type flowers.

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

Geoff Pinn

gjpinn@tiscali.co.uk

Tipton St John Playing Field

Firstly I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

We have an exciting year ahead with lots planned again, including a Dog Show (date to be confirmed) and the Golden lion vs Tipton Cricket Club match on **Sunday 12th April** for the Carol Weaver trophy. Our annual Family Fun Day is being held on **Saturday 4th July**.

There will also a few other events that just need finalising so please do keep an eye on our notice boards.

It is the time of year we start our general maintenance to get ready for the following year so we will be holding a couple of volunteer days in February and March. So do please come along: all dates will be advertised on our notice boards.

A quick update from our AGM back in November: we now have a new secretary at the Playing Field Association. Kiera O'Connor has kindly taken the role on from Mo Mylne who has done an amazing job for the last 15 years. I would like to say a massive thank you to Mo for all the hard work and dedication she has put in.

As I mentioned in my last Tipton Times article we have been granted planning permission to build a new community pavilion, which I hope you all agree is amazing news. So now starts the hard part: raising funds to make this possible. If anyone reading this article has any experience in fundraising and grants please do contact me via email as all help and ideas are greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you around our Playing Field, enjoying this amazing asset of the village.

Please, as always, if you have any questions or concerns do contact me.

Mark Rigden. PFA Chairman (rigden58@btinternet.com)

Carol Singing

Unfortunately the weather this year was not what we wanted so a big *thank you* to the small group who turned out on a wet evening to sing or knock on doors on 15th December for our annual carol singing around the village. We started off in the dry at Sundial Care Home and ended up at the Golden Lion for some very welcome mulled wine and mince pies (thank you Annie).

As in previous years we were collecting for the world relief agency Tearfund and we raised £190, after adding several later donations, which will help this leading charity in its mission to tackle the causes and effects of poverty.

Thank you to all who contributed financially and apologies if we didn't get to knock on your door either because of the time or because we were too wet!

John and Pauline Belton





Peter Pan in Tipton

Two TIPPS members, Natalie Anning and Claire Devin have been busy. By arrangement with Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity and Concord Theatricals Ltd, they have written a magical play based on the story of J.M. Barrie's Peter Pan.

Most people will know the story of Peter the boy who never grew up, the lost boys, the Darling family with their canine Nanny and the villainous Hook. It's a story that has really stood the test of time, when you add Tinker Bell the mischievous fairy and some special effects to the mix the story really comes to life! With our adult members, our very talented junior section and even a hairy, four-legged member taking part in this production, our audiences are in for a real treat.

The play, directed by Natalie and Claire, runs in Tipton St John Community Hall from Tuesday 17th until Saturday 21st February at 7.30pm each evening, with a matinee at 2.30pm on the Saturday. Tickets are available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/TIPPS and Tipton Village Stores priced at £10 per adult and £5 for children under 16.

Yvonne Kellett

TIPPS member extraordinaire!

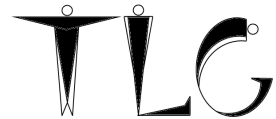
So many happy memories of Jerry Dewhust's contribution to TIPPS. A regular and faithful member of the chorus with a fine tenor voice, so often he was *behind you!* as the ghost, mummy, grunting gorilla etc. An outstanding set builder - "*what do you mean, it's too heavy*" - "*I'm just off to B & Q for a few more bits*". Latterly, his talents were restricted to extracting maximum contribution for programmes as he stood at the door immaculately attired in D.J. doing his 'Front of House' slot. Always a supporter.

He also became a very valued Community Hall Trustee just when we were raising all the funds to upgrade with new kitchen, small hall and entrance. Thank you for your contribution to our village life, Jerry.

Ann Knight

Tipton Ladies' Group - January meeting - *Comedy Magic 2*

Jude Coram was invited to come back for another evening of *Comedy Magic*, following a very successful previous visit. January's meeting saw him combining amazing magic tricks ("Gosh, how did he do THAT!?") with great humour and an enthusiastic delivery. He very skilfully presented tricks that kept us all wondering how on earth they had been done, with everyone sitting on the edge of their chairs just waiting for the next amazing feat to be performed. His naturally funny personality and engaging manner kept the whole audience in complete attention.



Jude's 'Lie-Detector Test':

A member of the audience was asked to shuffle a deck of cards. Jude then took back the deck and gave her a card without looking at it. Jude then asked her a series of questions about the card's suit (clubs, spades etc.) and rank (number, King, Queen etc.). She was told that she was free to lie, when giving the answers to his questions. After all the truthful answers (and the lies!) had been given, he correctly stated which card had been chosen: 7 of hearts.

People's Names Memory Test:

Another great trick showed his ability to remember people's names. Another member of the audience was handed a deck of cards, each with a different person's name written on each card. She was asked to check that the names on the cards were all different, and she then shuffled them. She handed them back to Jude, and the audience decided to give him only 17 seconds to look through them and remember the sequence of names on all the cards. After 17 seconds, he gave the cards back to her and she put them in front of her on the table, face down. He then called out the name on the topmost card, which she confirmed to be correct. Jude then went on in this way, calling the name that would be on the next card in the pile and so on, until all 52 cards had had their names correctly remembered by him. He got every one of them right. How did he do this!

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 16th February: Tipton in the Victorian and Edwardian Times**, to be presented by Andrea Cook. All our events are listed on the back cover, meeting from 7 for 7.30pm.

Janet Jenkins

Jeremy Dewhurst (1939-2025)

We are sad to record that Jerry Dewhurst died on 22nd November 2025, aged 86. A service of remembrance held at St John the Evangelist Church in Tipton on 18th December 2025 was well attended.

A proud Lancastrian, Jerry was born near Calicut in India two days before the outbreak of the Second World War. India clearly made an impression - throughout his adult life Jerry sought out sunny climes, devoured spicy food and poured very generous gin and tonics! Following repatriation to the UK, he attended the King George V Grammar School for Boys where he excelled at maths but struggled with Latin. He was the first in his family to graduate from university, securing a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Liverpool. His career started within the aero engines division at Rolls Royce in Derby and culminated in Japan as head of manufacturing for a global electronics firm where, amongst many achievements, he commercialised the global production of plastic tie-wraps. Tie-wraps are ubiquitous today - no matter where in the world you might be, staring at a loose wire with a desire to be tidy, there will be a tie-wrap to hand with thanks to Jerry.



Jerry met Angela one Saturday night early in 1963 at the jazz club above Strutt Arms Hotel in Milford near Belper. A date was arranged and he gave her the first of many bottles of Coco by Chanel: an early sign of his wonderful nature. Angela has not worn any other perfume during the intervening 62 years: a lifelong sign of her commitment.

Three boys arrived in quick succession - Sean, Simon and Miles. Summer holidays in Croyde Bay cemented the Dewhursts' love for Devon and the family moved to Tipton St John in the summer of 1980. Jerry was at his happiest here in this beautiful corner of Devon. Friends multiplied - neighbours in Metcombe, fellow members of TIPPS and the Colonials Golf Society boosted numbers. He loved his rugby at Sandy Park; he loved home cooking; he loved red wine which he considered superior to dessert; he loved his music - from classical to jazz, choral to barbershop; he loved his garden. And he especially loved time with his nine grandchildren.

Jerry is remembered as an excellent mechanic, decorator and stage scenery maker. Measure twice, cut once. Angela never heard him raise his voice in 63 years.

So the next time you use a plastic tie-wrap to fix a zip or to hang some Christmas lights, and you find yourself marvelling at how smart and perfectly functional and strong and adaptable and dependable they are, and at how they get any job done, you might also pause to remember Jerry.

Simon Dewhurst

Full Moon Labyrinth Walk

Hopefully many of you may have seen posters around the village advertising the Full Moon Labyrinth Walks which have been taking place at Ariadne's Thread every month at 7pm.

We have been using this time to gather at the labyrinth (in the north-west corner of the playing field) to reflect and pause in today's frenetic world. The full moon is a time when energy is at its peak and as we walk we hope to slow down, listen and recognise what we have achieved and consider anything we may need to release.

All are welcome, the next dates for the walks are on the **1st February, 2nd March and 2nd April.**

Bring warm clothes, a torch and an open heart.

Lisette and Clinton Johnston



Brenda Christine Dunn

As previously reported, we were sad to hear of the death of Chris Dunn on 7th October 2025. We have been sent the eulogy given by her son at her funeral at Nassington on 22nd November 2025 and I share some of the salient points with you.

Chris was born in Belvedere, Kent on 3rd October 1926 being the sixth of seven children. The family later moved to Essex, first on a farm then into Clacton. Then they moved to Ashted, Surrey where Chris attended Roseberry school. She is reported to have had a happy childhood with her many siblings, wearing their hand-me-downs and having her decisions made by them! Being a bright girl, she did well at school but left at 17 for a job as a milk tester. Later, at a farm in Flamstead, Hertfordshire, she milked cows and delivered milk. Here she met Desmond. They married in 1947 when Chris was not quite 21 and stayed married for over 70 years. She remained working on farms until the family came and then as well as being a full-time housewife she helped Desmond with his farm and contracting business.

In 1959 she trained as a swimming teacher and subsequently taught thousands of children to swim as well as teaching PE and Maths. She taught and helped in many areas at Aldwickbury School but her life largely revolved around Desmond and the family. She was a huge support to him especially in his interest in music and boating. Chris was a Brownie leader, sang in a choir, played tennis and still found time to make clothes, knit and write poems and stories. She loved nature, gardens, her dogs, puzzles and games.



Chris is particularly remembered in Tipton as a regular member of the Church Choir, in the *Singing for Pleasure* group set up by Desmond, a long-time Treasurer of the Church Institute (Village Hall), prompter and curtain puller for TIPPS and just as a general support and stalwart of village activities.

Among her papers the family found the following poem written by Chris just before her wedding in 1947 indicating her ambitions in life which I think those who knew her will agree she achieved: -

*If this bit of England be a better place because of me
Brighter for the light I shine
Gayer for this heart of mine
Richer for the wealth I give
A better place because I live
Stronger for the price I pay
Greater for the part I play
Then nobler in the end I die
for not in vain have I been I*

I would like to introduce to all readers Teresa Pollard who has joined the team as the new Chief Officer. Teresa comes with a wealth of experience from running Exeter Food Bank to various roles with Living Options Devon.

Teresa lives locally with her husband and teenage family. Only a few days into her new role she is meeting local residents and getting to grips with the workings of OHS. I'm sure you will join me in wishing her a long and enjoyable time with us.



Over the past few months, we've been highlighting our OHS groups. One group that may be less well known is the Boardroom Group. This is a joint venture with Able 2 Achieve and the social enterprise Silver Otter Café, located just along the road. Once a month on a Tuesday afternoon, clients can choose to enjoy lunch together at the café before heading to the space behind it to play a variety of games for a couple of hours. Others prefer to join the group just for the games. There is fun and laughter and, oh yes, a competitive spirit from some while others enjoy a more peaceful game.

A big thank you to those who have taken on being a volunteer as their New Year's resolution! We very much appreciate all our volunteers whether you can offer an hour or two a month or a regular slot whether supporting an activity or as a driver. As the requests increase to transport local residents to medically related appointments the need for drivers also increases. If you think this could be for you please pop in the office, call 01404 813041 or make contact via email: info@otteryhelpscheme.org.uk

Jill Dudding, Chair of Trustees

Thought for the Times

There are seasons in life when everything seems to be going really well. Work, family, a hobby or even retirement plans give you a sense of direction and purpose for your life. There are other times when life seems much harder.

Maybe you feel as if you are going round in circles, you do not seem to be achieving anything and all you can do is hope for better times to come without knowing how far off those better things may be.

One of the great episodes in the biblical history of God's covenant people is the period between the enslaved Israelites escaping Egypt through the Red Sea and their arrival in the promised land. It was a period of forty years. If things had gone well, it should have been a few weeks at most; instead, they wandered around, literally and metaphorically in the wilderness. Those people lived through that time in an actual wilderness, but their experience gives us a picture of what it can feel like when our lives feel dry, unproductive and aimless.

The forty years of wilderness-wandering is echoed in the Christian tradition of the forty days of Lent. This year Lent begins on Wednesday (Ash Wednesday) 18th February. Because the date of Easter moves around year to year, so does Ash Wednesday, which is always six-and-a-half weeks

earlier. Those of you who are quick at mental arithmetic will see that six-and-a-half weeks is more than forty days. The trick is that you do not count the Sundays.

The season of Lent is not mentioned in the Bible, but it is a Christian tradition

going back many centuries. Lent recognises that a time in the wilderness can be a time of preparation. A season that does not feel so good, that might even involve some deprivation, has the potential to prepare us for what is to come. People sometimes create this artificially by giving up something for Lent.

The old covenant people of God were being prepared for their new life in the promised land; Lent prepares God's new covenant people for Easter.

Although you will not find the word 'Easter' anywhere in the Bible, it is, of course, right at the centre. The resurrection of Jesus is the most important episode in the whole biblical history. The wilderness of Lent gives way to the glorious wonder of Jesus' resurrection, his dead body being renewed.

And that in turn reminds us that the whole of our lives on earth, the good times and the challenging seasons, are an invitation to put our faith in Jesus so that one day we can enter the promised land of God's renewed creation.



Mark

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Friends of St John and St Gregory Club

1st	53 Jenny Parkin	£30
2nd	55 Terry Knight	£20
3rd	45 Lionel Dodd	£15

Church News

Hopefully it's not too late to wish you all a Happy New Year! Thank you to all who came and enjoyed our special services over the Christmas period to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. As you may have noticed, no time has been spared in our local supermarkets as the Christmas stock has rapidly been replaced with Easter eggs and hot cross buns. Lent will very soon be upon us - perhaps it is time to confess December's over-indulgence and give up those treats for a few weeks? ... Lent, though, is really about what we might **do** to prepare ourselves for our celebration of Holy Week and Easter rather than about giving something up. We pray that our services through Lent, and indeed the Lent Course we are hosting with our brothers and sisters at Newton Poppleford, will help provide the spiritual boost we need as we emerge from the depths of winter - so why not come and join us?

Café Church



Our popular café-style services continue this year when we gather on the third Sunday of each month in the Community Hall for fellowship and worship. All are welcome, young or old and all ages in between. Doors open at 10.30am with free coffee and pastries (croissants and pain au chocolat) as well as creative activities for the youngsters. At around 11am we move into a time of worship, with catchy songs, a Bible reading and message and a teaser to get the brain cells whirring and everyone chatting. Not that Tipton folk need much excuse for that! Do come along and join in the fun, make some new friends and find out more about our faith.

If you missed it, our December Café Church focussed on the nativity story from Joseph's perspective. He often gets overlooked, but we discovered how vital his obedience was to enable God to fulfil his plans for Jesus' coming into the world, bringing his message of love and hope to us all. In January, we looked at Jesus' invitation to his first disciples - he invites us today to come and meet with him. Will we respond as Andrew and Simon did?

In **February** the theme for Café Church will be **Shine, Jesus, Shine** - and yes, we will be singing that well known song as we look at when Jesus' godly radiance was revealed to his disciples atop a mountain.

March's Café Church falls on **Mothering Sunday** so it will be a great time to come with your family and celebrate those who care for and nurture us.

Lent Course

Lent this year starts on 18th February, Ash Wednesday, for which there will be a morning service at 10am at St Luke's Church, Newton Poppleford to which all are welcome. It is our tradition now in Lent to join together with the other churches in the Otter Vale to offer a choice of Lent Courses designed to help bring us closer to God during this season. Here in the southern half of our Mission Community (MC) we will be taking 'A Journey Through The Wilderness' with the help of material produced by The Bible Project. Sessions will run on Thursday evenings in The Meeting Place, just behind Newton Poppleford Church, starting at 7.30pm and finishing by 9pm. Because the course is seven weeks long and the last Thursday in Lent is Maundy Thursday, we are starting the Lent sessions on **12th February**, the week before Ash Wednesday. If you cannot get to every session, you are more than welcome to come to however many you can manage. Meanwhile, in the northern half of the MC, a course entitled *Word and Tunes of Grace - how hymns shape our spirituality, worship and prayer* will run on Tuesday evenings in Ottery St Mary Church from 7pm to 8pm, starting on 24th February. All are welcome to come to one - or both! - of these offerings.

Coffee Morning

After a New Year break the regular monthly coffee morning will be back on **Saturday 7th February** from **10am** in the Community Hall. Do drop in, bring your friends and spend your money on the cake and book stalls. And don't worry if you haven't got any spare cash as we now accept card payments.

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

David Williamson

Licensed Lay Minister, Otter Vale Mission Community

St Mary's, Hayne Close, Tipton St John

Email davidhwilliamson@btinternet.com

Tel. 01404 812493

Tipton St John Cricket Club

It might be the depths of winter, but your local village cricket club is still active and participating in the Sidmouth indoor cricket league, which takes place at Sidmouth Sports Centre. There are two six-side competitions, one before and one after Christmas. The Tipton team acquitted itself well in the pre-Christmas league, under the leadership of John Buckland, and finished second out of six teams to a dominant Ottery St Mary side, who won six of their ten matches.



Eight teams are taking part in the post-Christmas league and Tipton have made a strong start with victories over Clyst Hydon and, last week, a strong Sidmouth side who could only manage 69 in response to Tipton's 138 from their 12 overs. If that sounds a lot, I should explain that runs are awarded more freely than in the outdoor game: a par score will normally be 8 -10 runs an over and each match lasts for an hour and a quarter.

Our thoughts will soon be turning to the start of the outdoor season which begins on **Sunday 12th April** with a match against the Golden Lion. This fixture was a hugely enjoyable and sociable beginning to last season and is played for the Carol Weaver trophy. Keep an eye open for information over the next weeks, especially if you'd like to play for the Lion!

Most of next season's fixtures have been pencilled in but not, sadly, our annual tour to Cornwall. We hope this returns in 2027. Work will soon begin preparing the cricket square as the weather improves and it won't be long before another season begins.

David Birch, Chair (07929 822940)

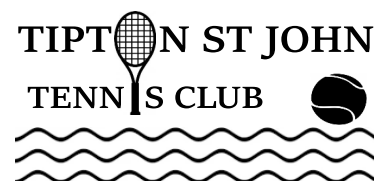
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<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057807483472>

Tipton Tennis Club

Happy New Year! How are the resolutions going? If your resolutions include getting fitter and having fun at the same time then we have a great way to make them happen ... and keep them going right through the year! Oh dear, I am beginning to sound like a commercial but many of our members have been doing just that right through the dark winter days, and as the days are just starting to lengthen we look forward spring and summer tennis.



As a small village club we have our ups and downs in the local tennis leagues. We had some great success in the last couple of years and now our teams are struggling a bit in higher divisions. However, we have also welcomed some keen and talented new players recently who have been regularly enjoying Wednesday club nights and also playing for the teams. Here is Pete Clarke's report from the winter leagues where we run one mens and one mixed teams:

It has been a hard winter season so far and currently we are in relegation battle in the mixed league and the men are also near the bottom of the league although, by settling the team to the better players, we have managed to get some better results. Whilst it is good to give everyone a game during the winter, we have had to keep the better players in the team in order to maintain our position and not to dishearten our normal B team players

We offer tremendous value for money with full adult membership at only £85 for a year's unlimited use of our beautiful riverside courts, including floodlights. Junior and family memberships also available - visit our website at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/TiptonStJohnTennisClub> for full details and to join. Prospective members are always welcome at club nights on Wednesdays from 6pm or at Tuesday morning ladies' session from 9.30am to give us a try. (Note, our membership year runs from April but don't put it off to then ... come and give us a free trial and we will sort a suitable arrangement if you wish to join for the rest of this season.)



Ken Mylne, Chair

Tipton St. John Community Hall Trust

Well, here we are, another year is upon us. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. The Hall had an interesting and busy Christmas with the family of our caterer, Anne-Marie Hathaway, hiring the hall for their Christmas dinner and celebrations. From what I saw and heard a great time was had by all.



We have our Quiz nights coming up, the January 18th one will have gone by the time you read this, but the next ones after that are **Sunday 22nd February, Sunday 22nd March and Sunday 26th April**. The attendance at the quizzes has been growing very nicely and I would advise that if you want to enter a team, please let me know sooner rather than later each month. We are getting full and I would not want to have to turn any of our regulars away. My contact details are 07810 302480 or rice196@btinternet.com.

We have an exciting event lined up for **Saturday 11th April**. It is called *Into the Breach* and is about a village hall in Devon in 1946. It is a one-man show starring Mark Carey as thirteen different characters. Reviews on YouTube suggest that it is a mix of Vicar of Dibley and Dad's Army. Bookings will be available in early March and it will cost £25 per person, which includes a main course meal and a dessert (details on the back cover).

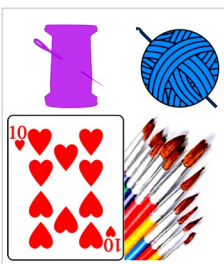
It's been a challenging year for the Trustees with several changes to the committee, but I'm delighted to say that we have a great team with a super mix of knowledge and abilities. Having said that, there a couple of spare places on the Committee so please feel free to contact me if you might be interested and I would be happy to talk you through what is involved.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Judith Taylor, who looks after the housekeeping of the Hall, and Jane Gibson, our Booking Clerk, for their tremendous work since taking over early in 2025.

Finally, nothing to do with the Hall itself. I'm sure everyone in the village would like to join me to thank Will Davey, Mark Rigden and Toby Scrimshaw for everything they did to obtain a Christmas tree in the village. It was beautiful. Also, thanks to Helen in Barton Paddocks for allowing the lights to be plugged into her outside socket.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Hall events, coffee mornings, club events at the hall, or when I'm walking Ralf around the village in the mornings or afternoons.

Brian Rice



Art, Craft, Hobbies & Pastimes

Our last meeting before Christmas was the Beetle Drive and we were pleased to see a few new faces. Never well-supported, we still enjoyed ourselves playing this childhood game and devouring the stollen and mince pies, not to mention the mulled wine. The small draw (with enough prizes to make at least one win for everyone present) raised quite a lot of money which, with a few donations from those not able to attend, enabled us to send £100 to *Crisis At Christmas*. Many thanks.

By the time you read this we will have restarted our usual weekly sessions with a new 'off shoot' a jigsaw library. Donations of good condition puzzles welcome.

No need to join in the group unless you want to!

Anne Knight (812040)

Jigsaw Library

Open **Thursdays 2.30 - 4.30pm**

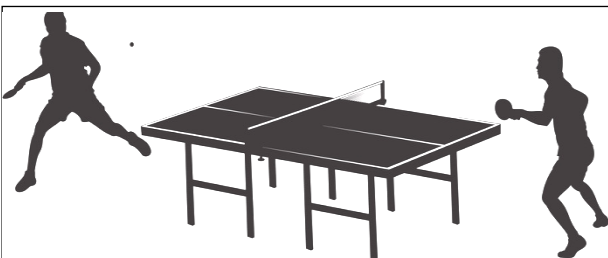


when the Craft Group
is in session.

Other times by arrangement

No Charge

Open to All



**Table Tennis in the Community Hall
at 7.30pm**

February 9th & 23rd

March 9th & 23rd

Tipton Carer Support Group

Thanks to everyone who have come along to one of the Carer Support get togethers, of which there have now been four, one a month since October. It's been rewarding to be able to chat informally and openly about what it means to be a carer. Everyone has their own story, but common themes arise around feelings of being overwhelmed at times, guilty, stressed, not being understood, frustrations with dealing with the system, accessing information, trying to still be your own person whilst being responsible for looking after someone else, but amidst all that trying to remain positive and do the best you can. The people who've come along have all been admirable doing what they do.

I decided to set this group up because I've been a carer for my husband John for several years now and last year I became a Carer Ambassador with Devon Carers, a role which is very much about raising awareness of what it's like to be a carer, giving support to other carers, and signposting people to Devon Carers for practical help and advice. Their helpline is 03456 434 435.

This new role in part led to me being invited by Dementia UK to share my story on their national website. This is the link ... <https://www.dementiauk.org/information-and-support/stories/jos-story-my-whole-world-shrank/>

I've also been given the opportunity to do a podcast with them, which means a visit to London, and an interview and recording session at a Soho media studio. It's not easy talking about one's own personal situation, but I want to do this not for me, but for all the people in my life affected by dementia, both my grandmothers, John's mum, my dad, many dear friends and, of course, John himself.

I've also embarked on a fundraising challenge, that I hope eventually will lead to me walking the length and breadth of mainland Britain. I started the first leg in May 2025, walking 160 miles from Dunnet Head, the most northerly point, to John O'Groats and via the John O'Groats trail down to Inverness. This spring I'm planning to complete Inverness to Glasgow, via the Great Glen Way and the West Highland Way, a total distance of 175 miles. My goal is to carry on south taking in Ness Point, in Suffolk, the most easterly point, and then head to Land's End, most westerly point, finishing eventually at Lizard Point, the most southerly point of our island home. I love acronyms, and as this sequence of the main compass points spells NEWS, being a former journalist, it's fittingly my NEWS Walk. I'm doing it in stages to not be away from John for too long, so it will take me a few years to complete. It's a fundraiser for Dementia UK and the Samaritans, both causes that are important to me.

I hope through the Carer Support Group to add some extra options in during the summer, some walks, maybe an outdoor picnic, and a talk. For February and March, it's the existing format of a Saturday morning and a Friday afternoon get together at our house, Brambledown, Green Lane, EX10 0AH. The first date is **Saturday 14th February, from 10.30am to 12.30pm**, a good morning to let all you wonderful local carers know that you are loved. The March date is **Friday 6th March, from 2.30pm to 4.30pm**. These get togethers welcome all who are interested. Please feel free to email me with any questions jo.earlam@hotmail.co.uk.

Jo Earlam

VOSRA

With no events or local activities to report on, I've been wondering about content for putting pen to paper for Tipton Times. An article in this month's magazine, Country Living, highlighted glasshouses of national importance including Kibble Palace, Wisley, the National Botanic Garden of Wales, the Eden Project and last but not least, Bicton, with its 18,000-pane bulbous structure which helps protect many unusual and fine examples of plant species rarely seen in the UK. It got me thinking how lucky we are to have the attractions and resources that flourish in this area and it also reminded me of the deep-seated generosity of many of our local residents but also local organisations like Bicton that supported us so well in last year's auction.

There is always something to do in this area, a coastal walk and a cuppa in one of the seaside towns, or just an amble along the wealth of country lanes we have around here. At night time this month, with clear skies, we get good views of Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn and you never know you might even hear an owl or twit twoo!!

Before I go, I must address a scurrilous rumour that's been circulating the village. It's being claimed that when the US invaded Venezuela they had in fact targeted Venn Ottery, but nobody knew where it was, so they Googled it. They got as far as V E N, then predictive text took over and Venezuela became the target. But for that we could have become the 51st State. But no matter, best for now, we stay as we are, I think.

Herbie Morris

Tipton St John Primary School

We have had an action-packed term with lots of exciting activities for the children. Sports events at Kings, museum visits, a theatre performance in school, Harvest, Remembrance celebrated with visiting Bishops from the Solomon Islands, an Oak Class Exeter Museum visit, and finally our Christmas celebrations including a Nativity performance and Christingle Service at the end of term.



You may have noticed our new Summer House on the lower site. We are looking forward to making use of this next term for small group work. We also now have a lovely bench which has been purchased in memory of our Teaching Assistant Michelle Grover, who is much missed. We have also now installed a bird table outside Maple class which is also in memory of another Teaching Assistant, Jacky Norman who worked in Maple for some years.

Finally, we are always on the look out for new governors for the federation. This is a

hugely valuable school and community role and gives you the chance to offer real, practical support and contribute to strategic decision making. If you are interested in learning more about this role, please contact the school office on 01404 812943.

We would be particularly keen to recruit someone with an existing connection with the federation, a parent or grandparent who could fulfil the role of Lead Governor for SEND and Inclusion. There would be training for this role and key responsibilities would include meeting with the Head of School once a term to talk through how we are meeting the needs of our more vulnerable pupils and how we could further improve our provision and pupil outcomes.



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

Tipton St John Residents Association

Tipton St John has had a Residents Association for many years but recently, and particularly since the Covid pandemic, it has become largely dormant. In the past the Association used to campaign on local issues such as planning and also run village events and outings, but in recent years the only thing it has done is to fund the flowers on the bridge and clock tower and around the village green. The committee has dwindled to two members, Lyn Harding and Ken Mylne. To add to this, the bank has recently informed us that they no longer support the type of account we have and are going to close it. We have taken the decision to wind up the Residents Association and transfer the bank account balance of a little over £1500 to another village organisation which is well-managed with an active committee and trustees, and which can then take responsibility for funding the flowers. We have chosen the Playing Field Association because it has recently been organising a number of village events of the same sort of thing which the Residents Association used to do, and also, for example, recently helped install the wonderful Christmas tree which we all enjoyed during the festive season. The PFA Chair and Treasurer have agreed to take on this role.

There are a very few residents who have kindly made regular payments to the Residents Association via standing order. If you are one of them then you may like to cancel the standing order although, of course, it will be automatically bounced once the account is closed. For all residents, if you enjoy the flowers around the village and have contributed to the Residents Association in the past, you might consider making or increasing donations to the PFA to ensure we can continue supporting them for many years to come.

Ken Mylne and Lyn Harding

Friends of Ottery Library

Hello Tipton People, the Friends of Ottery Library need your help.

We are deep into a campaign to protect the Library from a proposed reduction of the staffed opening hours from 21 to 15 per week and closure on Mondays and Fridays.

You can read all about it at <https://bit.ly/Consultation2025> and pick up hard copies in the Library of this Public Consultation on the *Future of Libraries* by Devon County Council. We have prepared *recommended responses* and summarised the *Key Points* to remember when responding. The consultation has downgraded all 50 libraries and grouped us across regions into four bands, A to D. In East Devon, Ottery St Mary is in C band with Axminster, Budleigh and Seaton. Colyton is in D by itself, downgraded to only six hours a week, along with 20 others, a travesty which is unsustainable - and it is obvious that the next step for these unfortunate 21 is closure. A less-cowardly approach would have been to replace at least some of them with mobile libraries and reallocate the staff to the C and B level libraries. In addition, the proposals are underpinned by a foolish 'standardisation approach' so that at least one library is open from Monday to Saturday, completely misunderstanding the role of libraries as a *local* service. It's assumed that if our library is closed, you would willingly attempt to get to Budleigh or Axminster to see if they have the book you want, except it might take two buses and you couldn't get home again.

Despite the consultation consternation, the Ottery Library routine continues: French Conversation Café on Monday mornings, Otter Lit on Thursday mornings, Meditation Group on Tuesday evenings, Craft and a Cuppa, and all the children's activities from Baby Weigh, Bounce & Rhyme, Oakley the reading dog, Lego, Colouring, Crafts and Board Games. Plus you can buy tickets for the Panto, and borrow blood pressure monitors, and jigsaws and do cloud printing and have a free hot drink and read a free newspaper sitting in a comfy chair.



All of these things are at risk: the loss of six staffed hours is a loss of 28 per cent of staffed time and capacity. What's also at risk are all of us for whom the library is a lifeline, the one place you can go that is **safe** and **free**. As Suzanne, a West Hill resident said, 'it's not just about the books, you know'. To express her appreciation of the library, she donated an enormous Christmas hamper to raffle. The ticket buyers were also generous - or greedy - and the total amount raised was £250! Ottery Library is well loved.

Please complete the consultation with the Friends' suggested answers, sign the petition in the Library and on Facebook, write to Jess Bailey at DCC and to Richard Foord MP and **tell them**.



Marilyn Spidell, Secretary, Friends of Ottery Library

Otter Valley Rotary Club

In December we collected at Morrisons in Cranbrook and Tesco, Honiton - many thanks to all donors. Funds collected support various projects in our area - something to bear in mind when you see us and our buckets!

We had a very successful evening singing Christmas Carols accompanied by the Ottery Silver Band at Westhill British Legion Club - an enthusiastic audience enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies on arrival and the collection added to our support for this popular local group.

2026 sees the 40th anniversary of the foundation of our Club and we intend to celebrate this achievement by supporting up to 40 start ups/clubs/organisations/initiatives with small grants for specific projects. Do contact our secretary, Keith Spittlehouse on keith.spittlehouse@btinternet.com for an application form or for any connected matters.

Once New Year was behind us, we held a business meeting to determine our way forward - of which more in each edition.



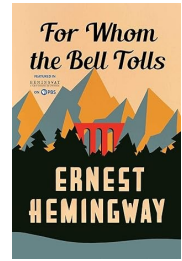
Keith Spittlehouse, Hon. Secretary



Tipton Readers

For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway

This was the book discussed by The Tipton Readers at the beginning of December. Published in 1940, the book, based on Hemingway's experience as a war correspondent, is considered to be one of his best. Having read and enjoyed several written by Hemingway when I was young, I wanted to see if they stood the test of time and am not sure this one has.



The background to the story is the Spanish Civil War of 1936-39, a conflict between the Republicans, a left-leaning popular front, and the Nationalists, supported by Nazi Germany, in whose lead Franco played a principal role. Regarded as a struggle between class and religion or Fascism and Communism, it attracted young men from many countries to join the fight, particularly for the Republicans.

The story takes place over four days, the main protagonist being Robert Jordan, a young American trained as an explosives expert sent to join a mountain guerilla group to blow up a bridge and delay enemy forces. The group, led at first by Pablo then his wife, Pilar, have rescued a young girl, Maria, who has been raped by the Nationalists and with whom Robert falls in love. I hadn't realised that the phrase describing 'the earth moving' during love-making came from this book! Robert feels his mission is pretty hopeless, but he must continue until ordered to abandon. He succeeds but with loss of a valued group member. Wounded by an enemy tank, he persuades Maria to escape but remains himself to kill an enemy officer. The book ends, but did he succeed?

There is a lot of closely observed description of the countryside - you can almost feel the pine needles - and soldiers' philosophy - but the big question is in the title *For Whom The Bell Tolls* from John Donne's poem, 'no man is an island ...' Scores ranged from 4 to 9 so as you may imagine it provoked a good discussion.

All the light we cannot see by Anthony Doerr

Ann Knight

This is a beautiful and moving story set during World War II. The story follows the lives of two children, Marie-Laure, a blind French girl, and Werner Pfennig, a German orphan as they grow up in the midst of a world torn apart. It is rare for our book group to be unanimous in our opinions about the books we read but this book was enjoyed and praised by all of us. We scored it a solid 9 out of 10.



If you haven't had the pleasure of reading this story I would happily recommend it to you. Although this is a long book, Doerr's chapters are short and readable. To maintain suspense, he switches both between perspectives and time periods. This novel shows how light, both literally and metaphorically, plays an important role in the characters' journeys. It is a story of survival, resilience and hope in the darkest of times.

Marie-Laure grows up in Paris with her father Daniel, a locksmith at the Museum of Natural History. She loses her sight at the age of six and her father builds wooden models of their neighbourhood so she can learn to navigate. When the war begins, they are forced to flee the city and end up in the coastal town of Saint-Malo. Marie-Laure's father carries a valuable jewel called the Sea of Flames. Some people believe the jewel is cursed.

In Germany, Werner and his sister Jutta live in an orphanage. Werner discovers a broken radio and repairs it, revealing a talent for engineering. His skill earns him a place at a Nazi academy - a harsh, militaristic environment. Werner excels at the academy but he becomes increasingly disturbed by its brutality. Later, he is sent to use his technical skills in the German army. He is haunted by guilt as he witnesses atrocities. As the war gets worse, both Marie-Laure and Werner face many challenges. Marie-Laure hides from the Nazis, while Werner is sent to find illegal radio signals. Eventually, Werner tracks a signal to Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure is sending messages. The two meet during a bombing. Werner helps Marie-Laure and makes a brave choice that changes his life.

Even in a cruel war, kindness and hope can still exist. The story moves back and forth between different times in their lives. It shows how both characters grow, struggle and try to hold on to what is good in the world. The characters in the story are believable and the reader cares about what happens to Marie-Laure and Werner. This is a captivating storyline and the writing is beautiful. It is hard to put down, and even harder to forget.

Elizabeth Williams

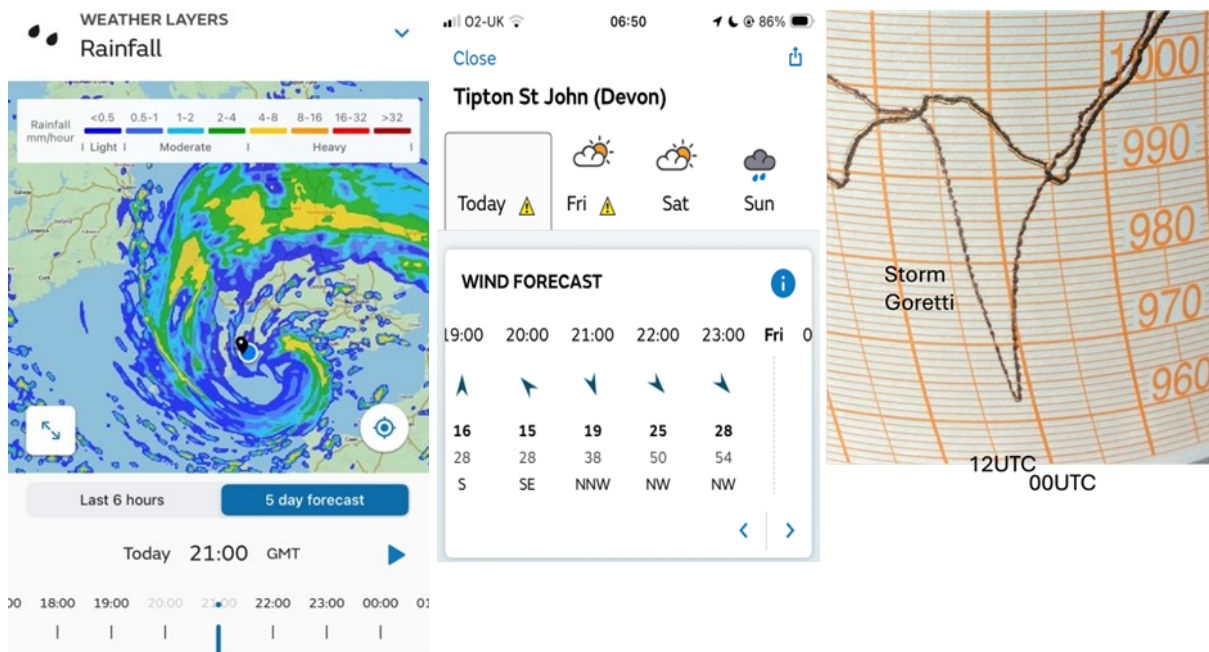
Tipton Weather Report

Happy New Year. Once again we hear that the year just finished has broken all sorts of climate records, notably the warmest and sunniest year in the UK since records began. Globally the last three years have been the warmest on record, although 2025 was not quite as warm as 2023 or 2024 due to the short-term cooling effect of the La Nina in the Pacific. But that is not what I am writing about this time.

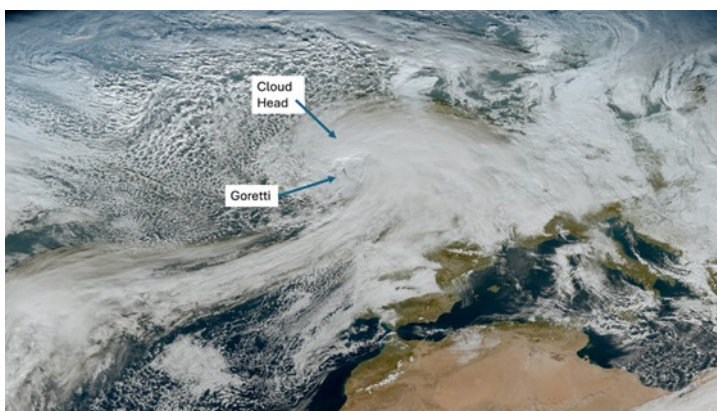
Another expectation of a warmer climate is increased storminess with heavier rain, and 2026 has certainly got off to a stormy start with Storm Goretti passing right over us here in Tipton.

Storm Goretti was named by Meteo-France who got in ahead of the Met Office because impacts were expected to be even more severe in France than the UK. The agreed convention is that when one country names a storm, others will follow with the same name to avoid confusion. Nevertheless, the Met Office still issued a rare Red warning for extreme winds in Cornwall and the Scillies, although we only had a Yellow in Devon.

The main thing I want to share with you are some stunning images of the storm, which also illustrate the amazing accuracy of today's forecasting systems.



The first two images, both taken from the Met Office app early on Thursday morning show the forecast from about 18 hours ahead of the storm reaching us. The left one of predicted rainfall clearly shows the fronts wrapped tightly round the deep low centre just south of Tipton (blue dot). The middle shows the local forecast for Tipton with a dramatic 180 degree reversal in wind direction between 2000 and 2100,

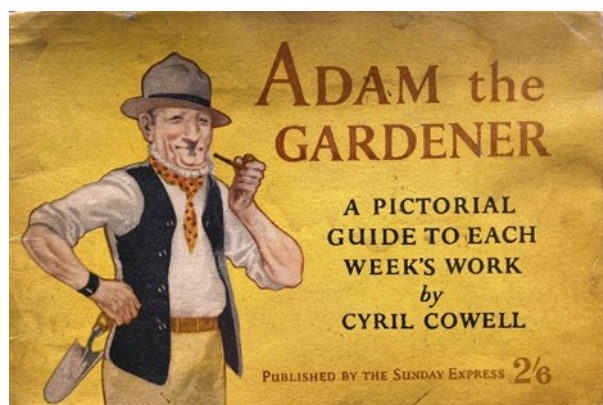


with the wind speed picking up dramatically after that to gusts of 54mph. Strongest winds in a system like this nearly always occur in the cold air coming down the rear side of the low as it moves east. The third image is from my barograph which tracks the surface pressure here in Tipton. It is rare for a deep low centre to pass so close and give such a dramatic trace. You can see the pressure drop by 34mb in only 6 hours (30mb in 4h) and then rise again even faster, climbing nearly 20mb in 2 hours before rising more slowly after that.

The final image (seen best in colour online) is a satellite image of Goretti just approaching the UK. It is a stunning image from our very latest European weather satellite. I have labelled the storm centre and also what we call a Cloud Head which is a good warning to forecasters of explosive storm development. Cloud Heads were first identified in grainy early satellite images of the October 1987 storm. (To see the full glory of this image go to: <https://www-cdn.eumetsat.int/files/2026-01/storm-Goretti.jpg>). For a spectacular movie sequence see: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1389024685933431>

Garden News

What to write this month? Spring will be on its way soon and I have a couple of gardens to tell you about but they're not really at their best in the depth of winter although I did say, last time, that its still quite nice having a little wander round the garden checking out new shoots and looking at the framework and dreaming of next season's projects.



However, my dear husband helped me out when I said loudly that I didn't know what to write this time. He said "What about looking at Adam!" "Who is Adam?" I hear some of you say. Some others might know.

Adam the Gardener gave a pictorial guide to each week's work and it was written by a man called Cyril Cowell and was published each week by the Sunday Express. It appears my husband's grandfather then bought the book and stuck to it religiously when carrying out each task.

I have to confess once I got the book out to have a look, I became completely absorbed in reading the two pages for each week of what to do in February and March. I have included a few pages here for you to enjoy. As I read several things came to mind. The main one is that I start things far too late in my garden ... he is busy taking pelargonium cuttings in early February for example. I also know that many of the chemicals he used would not be acceptable nor available nowadays. That aside, it makes great reading. I really like the recipe for compost for sowing onions and probably other seeds. I've been saving the ash from our fire and have made leaf mould so I'm halfway there to making a delicious mixture but just have to get some seeds! He was obviously of the era of double digging which I don't do these days.

There is another term he uses I haven't heard for many, many years but first heard when my parents moved to Oxfordshire to retire. They had a neighbour who was a bit of an Adam himself and swore by using basic slag on all his beds. I've googled it and find you can still buy variations but it's dressed up with more glamorous names. Basic slag is a by-product of the steel industry. In the steelmaking process the impurities in the crude iron are oxidised and, together with lime, form the slag.

Below and on the opposite page, I've given you a couple of pages for February and March on sowing onions and rose pruning and if my garden visits run out maybe I'll just send in pages of Adam for the coming year!!

FEBRUARY

a. Decayed Garden Refuse.
b. Decayed Manure.
c. Top Soil.
d. Soot, mixed with bonemeal.

1 part Sand
1 part Leaf-mould
3 parts Loam

100 Soot per bushelful

Leaves
Compost
sifted soil

First Week

STRAW OF BUSHY STICKS
FINE SOIL AND WOODASH

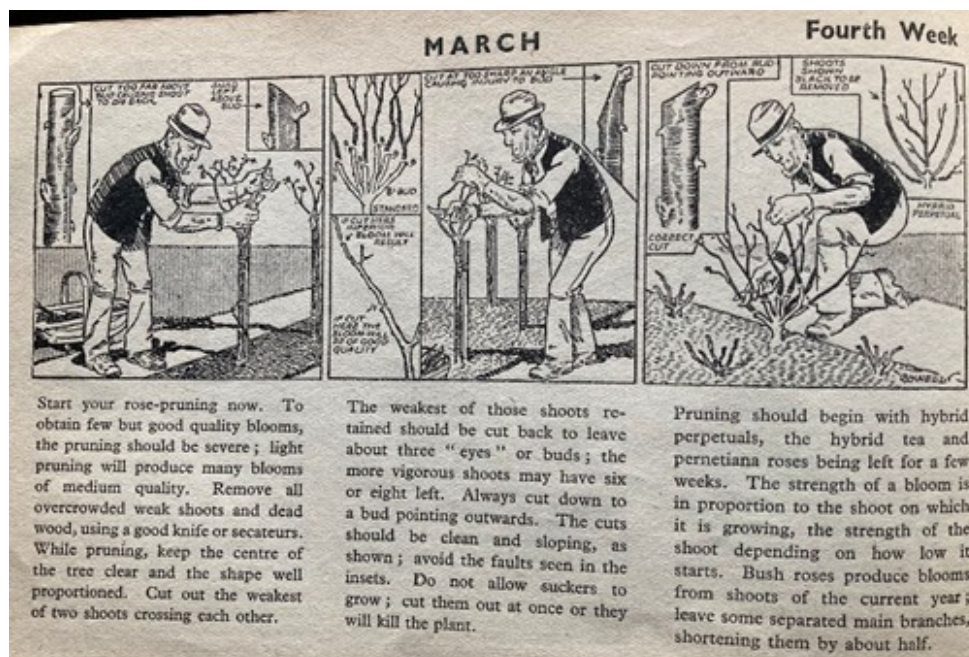
Varieties for frames:
Little Gem,
Early Horn,
for borders:
Early Gem,
Quadrant,
Early - Nantes.

A row or two of an early kind of onion, suitable for salads, such as White Lisbon, can be sown now in a bed prepared thoroughly, as shown, in a sunny position. The ground should be trenched deeply, made moderately firm by treading, stones and lumps removed, and the surface made fine and level. The seed for this purpose can be sown fairly thickly in $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. deep drills. These spring, or green, onions are pulled in spring when young.

To produce really good-sized onions sow now in boxes of a compost made up similarly to that shown here. This compost should be sterilised by pouring boiling water over it. Space the seeds, using only the larger ones, at $\frac{1}{2}$ in. apart, pressing them gently into the soil with a board. For covering soil use some from the compost, heating it on a shovel held over a fire. Sift it finely, and sprinkle it over the seeds. When seedlings stand erect, prick them off at 2 in. apart into other boxes.

The first outdoor sowing of early shorthorn kinds of carrot can be made now on a warm border in 1 in. deep drills, 6 in. apart. Cover with fine soil and protect from hard weather with dried bracken, straw or bushy sticks, removing these when seedlings are well through. If soil is in a wet condition delay sowing until it is in a fit state to rake down finely. Sowing can also be made in a cold frame made frostproof at night with sacking.

18



Alison Stevens

Recipe Corner

Curried Chicken And Lentil Soup

A tasty, filling and warming Winter soup with colours to brighten up the darkest of days! If you have any cooked turkey, left over from Christmas, in the freezer, you can use that instead of the chicken!

Recipe serves 4.

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp olive or coconut oil
- 1 medium onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 1 pepper, any colour, deseeded and chopped into roughly 1.5 cm chunks
- 2 tbsp medium curry powder
- 400g can chopped tomatoes
- 1 chicken stock cube
- 50g dried red split lentils
- 225g frozen spinach
- 200g cooked chicken, roughly chopped
- Lemon wedges to serve



Method:

1. Heat the oil in a large, non-stick saucepan, add the onion and pepper and gently fry for 5 minutes, or until softened. Stir in the curry powder and cook for a few seconds.
2. Add the tomatoes and bring to the boil. Keep stirring for a couple of minutes then crumble over the chicken stock cube and add 1 litre of water.
3. Rinse the lentils and add to the pan, along with the frozen spinach, and bring to a simmer. Season well with sea salt and lots of ground black pepper. Cook for 10 minutes, stirring regularly.
4. Add the chicken pieces and cook for 8 - 10 minutes more, or until the lentils are soft and the spinach is completely thawed, stirring regularly. Add extra water if the soup thickens too much.
5. Adjust the seasoning to taste and serve in deep bowls with lemon wedges for squeezing over.

To make a vegetarian version, use a vegetable stock cube and replace the chicken with Quorn pieces.

Enjoy!

Jenny Pinn

Councillor Janice Aherne

Ottery St Mary Town Councillor, Tipton St John Ward



This time of year brings with it more flooding issues, so it was nice to see a digger clearing ditches along Higher Metcombe. I have below included an extract from a newsletter from the **West Country Rivers Trust - Climate Resilient Otter Catchments (CROC) project**, regarding **Tipton**:-

"The Tipton catchment has an ephemeral channel for most of the year, however when in flood becomes significantly dangerous, bringing down vast quantities of sediments and woody debris which can completely block the culvert under the road. The track network in this catchment, coupled with short sward height in the upper catchment, is known to contribute to high levels of runoff and therefore flood waters reaching the downstream community. One such significant flow pathway has been identified to the south, running from tracks in the upper catchment, along bridleways and footpaths, past a farm entrance and enters the community from the south easterly direction.

Landowner engagement: *We have now contacted all relevant landowners in the catchment to establish where the main issues occur and discuss what could be done to help ease flooding in the area. Thank you to all of those who have engaged with us so far in the project - your local knowledge has been invaluable.*

Soil Structure Assessments: *Now we have had much-needed rain, the soils have wetted up enough for us to start conducting soil structure assessments. Where soils could be in better health, we can work with the farmers and landowners to improve soil structure. This will allow more rain to enter the soil in heavy rain events and reduce the amount that runs off the surface and into the roads and rivers.*

Planning interventions: *We are now starting to move forward with planning small projects on farms in Tipton St John to help reduce flooding pressure in the catchment. Over the winter we are focusing on small scale woodland planting, hedgerow planting and in field tree planting to slow the flow of water moving across fields".*

Apart from flooding, this will hopefully help reduce the current high levels of pollution in the River Otter.

Tipton Primary school

The extract below is taken from the **East Devon Local Plan 2020-2042** (Second Regulation 19 Consultation: Final Draft before being submitted to Government). **Please note this is a proposal only at this stage.**

Strategic Policy SD27: Development allocation at Tipton St John

The site/area listed below, as identified on the Policies Map, is allocated for development.

Land South of Otter Close (Otry_04)

This site is allocated for up to 5 self-build homes and a new primary school. Development of the dwellings will only be allowed once building work on a new school on this allocation site is completed and occupied, or on an alternative site within or adjoining the Tipton St John settlement boundary, is completed and occupied. Should a new school be built elsewhere in Tipton St John then the dwellings should occupy no more than 20% of this site, to include any access, landscaping, BNG or other associated works. Should a new school not be built in Tipton St John the village would not meet the thresholds for a Tier 4 settlement and new houses will not be permitted at this site.

The site is seen in the context of the East Devon National Landscape where careful design is needed to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the site and its wider landscape setting. This is likely to require that new development is designed to have a fragmented floor plan with relatively narrow gables and limited eaves and ridge heights and no floodlighting of outdoor spaces. Careful consideration should be given to the layout of play areas and car parking to avoid large expanses of hard surfacing. Landscaping within and bounding the site should mitigate the loss of the hedgerow removed to achieve an access to the site and soften the appearance of any security fencing.

5.13b The primary school at Tipton St John will be relocated during the plan period, either on to an alternative site within Tipton St John or to an alternative site outside the village (for example, to land at Thorne Farm in Ottery St Mary). Without the school, the number of facilities in Tipton St John will fall below the threshold needed to serve the needs of the local population and it will no longer qualify as a Tier 4 settlement. The complete document can be found on East Devon District Council web site.

Landra Developments have put in outline planning permission for 140 houses to be built on land at Gerway Farm, Sidmouth Road. There has been strong opposition from local people to this, as it would drastically affect the traffic around Ottery and challenge all aspects of our already overstretched local infrastructure. Further information can be found on the EDDC planning portal. Ref (25/2468/MOUT).

Ottery Library...

...is in danger of having its opening hours drastically reduced as part of cost cutting measures. Please help to preserve this valuable resource: there is still time to fill out the survey on the future of Devon's libraries. Devon County Council launched the public consultation into libraries on 1st December and it is open until 22nd February. They are looking for your thoughts on the service and how it may run in the future. You can see the full proposals and fill in the survey here:

<https://devon.cc/your-libraries>

Devon CC Notice - Local Road Closure

From Mon 9 February 2026 for a maximum of 5 days until Fri 13 February 2026 (both dates inclusive) road from Chineway Head to Hare and Hounds.

Cllr Janice Aherne

07508 308569

janice.aherne@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk

Jess Bailey

Independent Devon County Councillor, Otter Valley Ward

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the readers of the Tipton Times a very happy New Year. I would also like to thank all those involved in the production of the Tipton Times for their hard work and also for allowing me an opportunity to include an article on a regular basis - it is very much appreciated.



Update on Tipton School

Although I have no formal update at this time, I continue to liaise closely with Devon CC Officers and officials from the Department for Education in trying to deliver a school for the village in Tipton. I hope that by the next issue of the Tipton Times I will be in a position to provide further information.

Otter Trail

As you may already be aware, the Otter Trail is now included in Devon's adopted countywide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). This means it has been identified as one of 10 strategic rural routes DCC are prioritising to progress.

The webpage setting out Devon County Council's countywide LCWIP and other LCWIP strategies can be found here: [Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans \(LCWIPs\) - Roads and transport \(https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/traffic-information/transport-planning/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plans-lcwips/\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/traffic-information/transport-planning/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plans-lcwips/)

DCC have begun initial feasibility work regarding the alignment of the route for the Otter Trail. The engineering team have been out on site, travelling up and down the route set out in the previous Sustrans study. They've also done some initial engagement with the internal DCC teams, e.g. discussing with the Signals Team where new crossings may be needed. Currently they are pulling together their findings and observations into a report detailing initial risks, restrictions/barriers, opportunities to alter the route, and high-level costs of different sections. I think it is fair to say that construction is likely to be some way off, but I will do everything that I can to try and make progress with this exciting project.

Library Consultation

As well as lending books, Ottery library provides many brilliant services for the community. There is a proposal to cut 28% of staffed opening hours for Ottery library as part of a Devon County Council 'standardisation' of library services and I am concerned the impact this will have on the opening hours of the library and the services that it is able to provide.

I would urge you to have your say on the proposal in Devon County Council's public consultation before 22nd February 2026. The survey can be completed online or by hand - Ottery library will hold a supply of printed versions of the consultation form: [Have Your Say Today - Complete our survey - Shaping Devon's Library Service](#)

Contd. on p 24/

Contd. from p23

Applications open for community grants that will fund community projects and buildings

In the previous edition of the Tipton Times I wrote about a new EDDC grant scheme that was opening for community projects and buildings. I can confirm that this has now opened and £204,000 is available - half for this round and the remainder for the next round in 2026-7. Grants of £300 to £1500 are available for community grants and grants of £500 to £10,000 are available for community buildings. The deadline for applications is 27th February 2026 at 4pm however there has been a suggestion that high volumes of interest are anticipated so the grant window could potentially close early. Full details of the scheme can be found on EDDC's website.

Local Government Reorganization

In a recent ministerial letter sent to councils, the Government granted 63 councils who are due to hold elections in May 2026 the ability to request a postponement of the forthcoming elections. The Government said this was to allow them to free up officer capacity in order to progress local government re-organisation (LGR). Devon County Council is not due to hold elections in May 2026 but Exeter City Council is. At the Devon County Council meeting of 9th January I, along with many other councillors, expressed the view that council elections across the country should not be postponed. In its letter to councils the Government also restated its commitment to its proposed timetable for LGR - elections for the new shadow unitary authorities to take place in May 2027 and the new authority authorities coming into effect in April 2028. The formation of new unitary councils in April 2028 is an unbelievably short timescale and I am concerned about the impact this will have on services for the people of Devon - a point that I made at the meeting on 9th January.

Cllr Jess Bailey

01404 814056

email jessica.bailey@devon.gov.uk



OTTERY ST MARY
TOWN COUNCIL

**Report Of Ottery St Mary Town
Council Meeting held on 12 January
2026**

EDDC Cllrs Collins, Faithfull and Johns sent written reports which are available on the Council website. DCC Cllr Bailey gave a verbal report - there is finance available for bus stop upgrades. It was agreed that Councillors will notify the Clerk of any bus stops within the parish which need to be upgraded. Cllr Bailey has objected to the Gerway Farm application. A meeting was held at DCC regarding the postponement of elections in May 26 - Cllr Bailey does not support this. Cllr Bailey is meeting with DfE regarding Tipton St John Primary School. At the EDDC Strategic Planning Committee Cllr Bailey has advised that EDDC should set up their own grant scheme for the creation of Neighbourhood Plans now the government scheme has been scrapped.

The Council agreed to pay for a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) to be installed in Fairmile to help reduce speeding vehicles. DCC Cllr Bailey and DCC Cllr Connor are each contributing £500 towards this work from their locality budget. The Council will write to Talaton Parish Council to request written confirmation that it supports the project which will directly benefit residents of Ottery St Mary and Talaton parish. The Council is disappointed that Talaton Parish Council has chosen not to make any donation towards the project which will directly affect its residents by improving road safety.

There was a lengthy discussion in relation to removal of a hedgerow in the parish. The Council will write an open letter to EDDC to express its disappointment at the lack of enforcement in relation to the hedge removal. DCC Cllr Bailey will raise with DCC Highways Officer about the unofficial closing of the road while the work was carried out and will copy her communication to the Health and Safety Executive. The Council supports the Tree Preservation Orders being made permanent.

Geoff Chamberlain, who is an Ottery Parish Church Assistant Governor in a fundraising role, gave a presentation to explain their National Lottery Heritage Fund bid. The Council will write to express its full support for the Parish Church's application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Council awarded a £250 Community Grant to Project Food.

The updated Strategy and Youth Strategy documents are adopted by the Council.

The budget for 2026/27 was improved. The Council agreed that the Precept for 2026/27 will increase to £447,029.00. The budget-setting process is supported by the Council's accountant and reflects the need for the income to cover the expenditure of the Council, and to ensure the Council can take on community asset transfers from EDDC as a direct result of Local Government Reorganisation.

The Shop Front Fund will open for applications in March.

The Council will ask Honiton Town Council to see if there is support for a night bus.

Concerns were raised that Ottery is an unsuitable location for large-scale development due to traffic issues, environmental impact on the River Otter, and lack of supporting infrastructure or employment opportunities. The Neighbourhood Plan states that no further development is required. Councillors highlighted that demand is for smaller, affordable/social housing for local people, not large executive homes, and stressed that current proposals do not meet Ottery's needs. The Council will be submitting a response to the EDDC Second Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation (Nov 2025 to Jan 2026).

Kerry Carr, Library Supervisor, gave a presentation regarding the DCC Shaping the Future of Devon's Library Service consultation. The Council encourages as many people as possible to take part in either the online survey or the paper copies we have available for residents. Residents are encouraged to consider what the library means to them. A response will be submitted on behalf of the Council and the Council will also write to DCC separately to voice its concerns on the proposed changes - particularly the impact of being closed on their busiest days and the potential impact on the footfall in the town if the library opening hours are reduced.

Cllr Dean Stewart was elected as Deputy Mayor.

The Planning Committee, Finance & Strategic Planning Committee, Community Infrastructure Committee and Human Resources Committee have all met. Copies of the Minutes of these meetings are available on the Council website.

Future Full Council meeting dates

Monday 2 nd February 2026	Council Offices
Monday 2 nd March 2026	Council Offices
Monday 13 th April 2026	Council Offices

Useful dates:

Citizens Advice is at Council Offices every Tuesday from 9.30am until 11.30am (subject to volunteer availability) or telephone 01395 265070 . Our offices are open Monday to Friday, 10am - 1pm, and we're always happy to help. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram or visit www.otterystmary-tc.gov.uk for agendas, minutes, and all the latest Council news.

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

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 next meetings will be on:

9th February: The West Country Rivers Trust.

9th March: The building of Exeter Cathedral

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.



RSPB Aylesbeare Common



December and January have been productive on the commons, getting stuck into the winter work of helping clear encroaching scrub, which can swamp out the heather and other specialist heathland plants. You may have seen signs of our work out in the open landscape, or passed our work parties, enjoying a well-earned break around the fire.

We have been working in some of the woodland parts of the reserve, including a patch tucked into a woodland edge at the south end of Harpford Common not far from the stream. This spot, amongst tall birch, oaks, and old hazel coppice stools, had become almost completely taken over by holly, resulting in almost no light being able to reach the woodland floor. Being shade-tolerant, it's a fantastic species in the understory of woodlands, and is an important food source for various moth and butterfly caterpillars - including the Holly Blue. The berries (only found on female trees) are also great for birds and small mammals to feed on during the winter months.



However, when it takes over, it can completely shade out any other ground flora, resulting in much less biodiversity within a woodland. Our task then was to clear out a number of the trees to let in the much-needed light.

This was no easy job, partly because of the painfully spiky leaves that make the Christmas season's festive wreaths and decorations so familiar, but also due to the springy branches, which seem to poke out and entangle and entwine themselves in each other, and

everything else nearby. This made cutting and removing a real effort, ensuring trees didn't get caught up on the way down, or having to pull free trimmed branches in a fashion more like a tug-of-war.

It was interesting to see, when you finally got a tree down, how different the leaves throughout a holly are - turning from the spikiest at the bottom, to almost completely smooth near the top. This is an adaptation by the tree to defend against nibbling animals such as deer. Next time you're on a woodland walk and see one, look for where the leaves change shape - this can indicate what height animals are browsing.

Back to the clearing, our regular volunteers rose to the task, and by the end of two days' work, the amount of sunlight able to reach the floor had dramatically increased (as had the rather less glamorous prickle rashes on our arms), which will be a huge win when spring arrives for the ground flora. As with much within nature it requires balance. Leaving plenty of holly left for those species that depend on it, whilst allowing other species to return, is all part of what we try to achieve in conservation.



Our news comes from our residential volunteers, Judit & Sam.

Late Winter at Bowhayes Farm: Looking Towards Spring

Winter has done what winter always does at Bowhayes Farm - slowed things down, stripped the landscape back, and given us space to take stock.

Autumn harvest is now well behind us, Christmas has come and gone, and the shortest days of the year are safely in the rear-view mirror. As the light returns, there are clear signs that spring is quietly building. Buds are swelling across the orchard, the days are lengthening, and the farm is beginning to stir again.

This year's apple harvest was a good one, and the cider from that fruit is progressing steadily. As is often the case on a working farm, not every apple made it into the press. Several tonnes were deliberately left in the orchard, where they've provided an important food source through the winter. Large flocks of fieldfares and other birds have been a constant presence, joined - perhaps less helpfully - by healthy

populations of deer and rabbits, all making the most of what the season offers.

The orchard itself has been quiet but not idle. Winter is a time for observation and planning: assessing tree health, reviewing structure, and preparing for pruning and future planting. Work is already underway behind the scenes to extend the orchard, strengthening its long-term productivity and resilience - decisions made now that will shape the farm for decades rather than seasons.

At the same time, Bowhayes Trees, our specimen tree nursery, continues through its winter rhythm. The nursery remains open, with strong interest in ornamental, fruiting and native trees from gardeners, landscapers and landowners planning ahead for spring planting. Good trees are a long-term investment, and winter is often the best time to make considered choices.

Practical improvements are also back on the agenda. Resurfacing and access works will recommence shortly, helping to improve access across the nursery and making visits safer and easier for everyone as activity increases with the season.



For those considering planting this year, we're always happy to help. Free consultations can be booked via our website or calling us 01404 812229, whether you're planning a single tree or a larger scheme. A walk around the nursery in Venn Ottery often provides clarity that plans on paper can't.

Late winter is not the most dramatic time on a farm, but it may be the most honest. There's little to hide behind - just soil, trees, weather and time. As spring approaches, Bowhayes Farm is preparing for another growing season, grounded in what's been learned and hopeful about what's to come.

Howard Hughes



Tipton Past Snow

Happy New Year Tipton. January and February often bring snow clouds looming and freezing winds along with them.

There have been some years where Tipton has suffered from some severe winter weather. In the January of 1881 a low pressure system developed over the channel, along with gale force winds bringing a prolonged snow storm creating drifts 10ft high in the rural areas of East Devon. Nearly all postal and telecommunications ceased and very little business was done during this time. It was intensely cold and wild birds were found dead, simply frozen to death in the fields. Mr Retter of Lancercombe farm gave out loaves of bread '*very liberally*' along with other foods to help feed the poor. Coal was also given out to keep families warm. One hundred 4lb loaves of bread were supplied by Mr Chard, baker of Ottery st Mary, for the people of Tipton, Fluxton and Metcombe.

In 1929 heavy snowfall caused farmer Mr Fry of Coombe to have to adapt from his usual horse and cart delivery which was impossible in the extreme weather. He improvised by borrowing a sleigh that youngsters had been tobogganing down the hills in and used it for his deliveries.



In January of 1963 we suffered the '*big freeze*', when snow began falling in the UK on Boxing Day 1962; it barely stopped for the next 10 weeks. It was the coldest and longest recorded winter at that time since 1739. The snow was so deep in places around the village lanes that people could walk on the tops of the hedgerows. Drifts reached over 6 metres (20ft) blocking the roads and cutting off the village for days. Groceries had to be brought into the village by tractor.

In February 1978 came blizzards that made snow drifts so deep along Harpford road that I can remember making a 'standing up snow angel' just by leaning into the drifts. The village was cut off for three days, with the school closed and the village shop busy keeping up with supplies of bread and milk. Tractors helped to make ways through the snow drifts so that you could at least get through on foot. I recall this year and like many others, we had no central heating in our house, so the open fire had to be kept going for warmth. At night we went to bed in our pyjamas, socks and night gowns. We lay under our many layers of blankets as there were no duvets, an eiderdown if you were lucky, and when we woke in the morning, we could see our cold misty breath and had to scrape the ice from the inside of the windows; the toilet even froze up. Snow damaged the power lines and with no electricity we had to revert to using candles for light and cooking on the open fire, which as a child I quite enjoyed. Holding a bit of bread on a fork over the fire seemed to make it taste far better than normal toast.

As school was closed we all headed up to the fields above Barton Orchard, dragging our plastic fertiliser sacks to go sledging, spending hours going up and down until our fingers and toes froze and throbbed with chilblains.



We had great fun scooping up snow to build snowmen and throwing snowballs for as long as our hands and cheeks could take the cold. With noses glowing red we were thankful to get home and thaw out by the fire.

More recently in the late February, early March of 2018, "The beast from the east" stormed in bringing prolonged low temperatures, heavy snow and ice making roads around the village impassable and giving many no option but to stay at home. I recall the trees were so frozen with icicles that you could hear them tinkling in the wind. As always in Tipton people were out helping each other in the village, making sure that others were safe.



"...it is in times of difficulty that the value of community life shows up to keep life flowing.." as reported by editor Paul Haines in a past TT, 1978.

We will see what weather the new year brings us.

The British newspaper archives, Sidmouth Herald and Tipton Times.

Judith Taylor

From textiles to toothbrushes

Otter Mill's third evolution from spinning to manufacturing



It's a convenience more than an invention. Everybody - young and old - uses one. And it was once a source of both skilled and semi-skilled employment at Otter Mill for the decades around the turn of the twentieth century, marking a shift from sixty years of silk yarn spinning. We're talking about the humble toothbrush. This, and other brushes, were staple items - essential household equipment in the scrubbing age before detergents.



Both Ottery and Axminster were centres of brush-making in their respective water-powered mills, a story that has been researched by East Devon native David Knapman, whose specialist interest is Devon's small market towns and their industries.

In March Ottery Heritage Society welcomes Todd Grey, who is going to be sharing highlights from his research of 70 wartime diaries belonging to both long-time Devon residents, and newcomers who arrived as evacuees during the years immediately before and during the Second World War. The stories they tell have a different tone from the usual military narratives, as those who comprised 'Devon's Home Front' describe what their lives were like, awaiting news and making less go further.



David Knapman's talk is on **Tuesday, 17th February**, and Todd Gray's is on **Tuesday, 17th March**, both 7.30 - 8.30pm in The Institute, Yonder Street, Ottery. Non-members are very welcome, but we ask for a donation of £3.50, card reader available. Brook Street car park is adjacent.

Ian Greig, Ottery St Mary Heritage Society trustee/publicity

Devon's wartime diary writers often commented on American and Canadian servicemen in the county but never activities, like that at Blackpool Sands near Slapton, in preparation for the Invasion of France, 1944. Image courtesy of The National Archives (USA).

Church Calendar For February and March 2026
Everyone is welcome to join us at any of our services or events

February

Sunday	1st	10.00 am	Holy Communion	N.Pop
		10.30 am	Holy Communion	O.S.M.
Saturday	6th	10.00 am	Coffee Morning and produce stall	Community Hall
Sunday	8th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
Sunday	15th	10.30 am	Café Church	T.S.J.
Ash Wednesday	18th	10.00 am	Holy Communion	N. Pop
Sunday	22nd	9.30 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.

March

Sunday	1st	10.00 am	Holy Communion	N.Pop
		10.30 am	Holy Communion	O.S.M.
Saturday	7th	10.00 am	Coffee Morning and produce stall	Community Hall
Sunday	8th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
Mothering Sunday	15th	10.30 am	Café Church	Community Hall
Sunday	22nd	9.30 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
Palm Sunday	29th	11.00 am	Morning Service	T.S.J.

April

Maundy Thursday	2nd	7.30 pm	The Lord's Supper	N.Pop
Good Friday	3rd		*see footnote below	
Saturday	4th	10.00 am	Coffee Morning and produce stall	Community Hall
Easter Sunday	5th	6.00 am	Easter Dawn Service	T.S.J.
			*see footnote below	

***note : Services for Good Friday and other Services on Easter Day will be found on the Otter Vale Churches website and in the April/May edition of Tipton Times.**

Online Services

In addition to the live services and events listed above, an online Service of Worship takes place at **10am** on the following **Sundays: 1st & 15th February and 1st & 15th March.**

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

Diary Dates - February and March

All dates correct at the time of publication.

Art, Craft, Hobbies and Pastimes in the Community Hall every **Thursday** from **2.30 - 4.30pm** including a jigsaw library P14

February

1st Feb	7pm	Full Moon Labyrinth Walk, Playing Field	Back cover
9th Feb	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14
14th Feb	10.30-12.30pm	Carers Support Group, Brambledown, Green Lane	P15
16th Feb	7 for 7.30pm	Tipton Ladies Group, Community Hall	Back cover
17th-21st Feb	7.30pm & 2.30pm	TIPPS Peter Pan, Community Hall	Back cover
22nd Feb	7pm	Village Quiz, Community Hall	P14
23rd Feb	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14

March

2nd March	7pm	Full Moon Labyrinth Walk, Playing Field	Back cover
3rd March	2.30-4.30pm	Carers Support Group, Brambledown, Green Lane	P15
9th March	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14
16th March	7 for 7.30pm	Tipton Ladies Group, Community Hall	Back cover
22nd March	7pm	Village Quiz, Community Hall	P14
23rd March	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14

April

2nd April	7pm	Full Moon Labyrinth Walk, Playing Field	Back cover
11th April	7.30pm	<i>Into the Breach</i> , Community Hall	Back cover
20th April	7 for 7.30pm	Tipton Ladies Group, Community Hall	Back cover
26th April	7pm	Village Quiz, Community Hall	P14



Joseph Haydn: *The Creation*

We are a non-auditioning community choir who enjoy singing classical choral music. On **Saturday 25th April**, we will be performing Haydn's *The Creation* in English, in Ottery Parish Church.

Joseph Haydn (1732 - 1809) became one of the world's most successful composers in the late 1700s. He came from a very humble background. His father, Mathias, was a wagon maker, and his mother, Maria, was a cook. Painstakingly, through luck, sheer hard work and innate talent, Haydn built a reputation as a competent composer and music tutor. By 1761 he had been recruited by the immensely powerful and wealthy Esterhazy family, part of the ruling dynasty, and he spent 40 years as their musical director and resident composer, retiring in 1803.

The Creation was composed between 1797 and 1799, a massive fourteen-month effort. It is a large-scale choral piece, depicting the creation of the world described by the book of Genesis. In the 1790s Haydn came to England on two enormously successful tours, and heard the grand scale choral works of Handel for the first time. It is said that Handel's *Messiah*, with the famous Hallelujah chorus, reduced Haydn to tears.

The Creation is Haydn's response: a big sound with a big choir illustrating a big subject. He throws everything at it - there are solos and duets, monumental choruses celebrating the end of each day of creation, and tone painting from the orchestra for the depiction of chaos and the arrival of the sun.

We can't wait for you to hear it!

Peter Hudson

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH GREAT ORMOND STREET
HOSPITAL CHARITY AND CONCORD THEATRICALS LTD...

TIPPS PRESENTS
J M BARRIE'S CLASSIC
TALE...



PETER PAN

A PLAY, WRITTEN
AND ADAPTED FOR STAGE BY
NATALIE ANNING
& CLAIRE DEVIN

TIPTON ST JOHN COMMUNITY HALL
Tuesday 17th - Saturday 21st February 2026
7:30pm, Saturday Matinee 2:30pm



Tickets available from Tipton Stores
or www.ticketsource.co.uk/TIPPS
Adults £10 under 16s £5

NODA
For every stage

TLG TIPTON LADIES GROUP

Speakers
2026

January 19 th	Magic with Jude Corram
February 16 th	A Victorian and Edwardian Tipton
March 16 th	Smuggling in Devon
April 20 th	Card Making with Maureen Phillips
May 18 th	AGM
June 15 th	The Crafty Shepherd
July 20 th	The Rock 'n' Roll years, Sheila Parker
September 21 st	Survivors of the Titanic, James Pellow
October 19 th	Wild East Devon
November 16 th	Christmas Crafts
December	Christmas Meal

Full Moon Labyrinth Walk
1st February
2nd March
2nd April
7pm
Meet at Ariadne's Thread
All Welcome

Tipton St John Playing Field
What3Words location
///haunt.lanes.escorting



STRATFORD THEATRE COMPANY PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE WONDERFUL COMEDY

INTO THE BREACH

GEORGE CROCKER
JOINS HIS VILLAGE
DRAMA CLUB TO LIVEN UP HIS LIFE.
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT TURNS HIS WORLD UPSIDE DOWN.

"A REMARKABLE AND HIGHLY ORIGINAL PIECE OF THEATRE"
BATH ECHO

"DAD'S ARMY MEETS
THE VICAR OF DIBLEY"

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"THIS SHOW WILL MAKE YOU
LAUGH, CRY AND ENJOY A
DEBATE ON SHAKESPEARE"
STRATFORD HERALD

TIPTON ST JOHN VILLAGE HALL
11 APRIL 2026 7.30PM



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