



TIPTON TIMES

335

October and
November 2026

Tipton Times was started in 1969 and is produced and distributed to local households every two months by volunteers. Costs are met from voluntary contributions
TT advertising is free and limited to local non-profit organisations and charities, with a once per year opportunity for businesses in our delivery area



Uncertain
future for
Playing
Field?

Poisoning
at Hayne??

Murders
too!!
Whatever
next??

Another
successful
Church Fete

COPY DEADLINE

For 336, December 2026 and January 2027

Wednesday, 18th November

(unless by arrangement)

CONTRIBUTIONS VIA YOUR BANK TO:

The Tipton Times Fund

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

tiptontimes2020@gmail.com

Follow us:

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

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

Contact details for village organisations and societies are available at

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

Editors:

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

Anne Sadler; Judith Taylor

Treasurer:

Andrew Sadler

Proofreader/Printers:

Barbara Pugh; Janet Croud; Pauline Belton

Distribution and General Production:

Jenny Arthur; Anne Bareford; John & Pauline Belton; Elizabeth Cozens; Janet Croud;
Jem & Wendy Gillham; Phill Grover; John Harding; Alan Hayslep; Kyle Hayes;
Martin & Janet Jenkins; Ann Knight; Nicky Knight; Katherine Lilley; Gill & Allen Marks; Shân Merritt;
Ann Moore; Nigel Morgan; Jan Passmore; Barbara & Tony Pugh; Anne Reid; Vanda Reynolds;
Sarah & Stephen Rosser; Maggie Rule; Chris & Janet Schofield; Alison & David Stevens;
Megan Watton; Denise Wightman; Andy Wiltshire & family

COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

Bridge floral displays

photo: Paul Taylor

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

Editorial

Welcome to the October/ November edition of Tipton Times.

We'd like to draw readers' attention to a potentially serious issue regarding our playing field. At the Playing Field Association AGM in November a new Chair and Treasurer, as well as at least one new Trustee, will need to be elected. If these positions are not filled, the PFA will be in breach of Charity Commission rules and lose control of the playing field, meaning that the village could well lose its ownership of this incredibly valuable asset.

Mark Rigden and the playing field team have served our community very successfully over the last few years but there is now an urgent need for new faces if we want to secure the playing field's future. If you are interested in stepping in to any of these roles, Mark would be very pleased to talk you through what is involved. He can be contacted on rigden58@btinternet.com.

The AGM is at 7.30 pm on the 2nd November in the Community Hall. Please come and show your support for the trustees at this challenging time and give some thought to whether you could step in to one of the vacant roles.

You will see from Cllr Jess Bailey's report on Page 22 that the planning application for the new primary school will shortly appear on the EDDC planning portal. The success of the application will depend partly on community support which can be registered via this link:

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications-and-information/view-planning-applications-enforcements-and-planning-appeals/>

The Editors

Contents

Children in need walk	14	Playing Field	8
Church Diary	30	Readers	19
Church News	15	Recipe Corner	26
Cllr Jess Bailey	22	Scouts	17
Cllr Sarah Martin	23	Table Tennis	11
Community Hall	14	Tennis	17
Cricket	13	Thought for the Times	11
Full Moon Labyrinth walks	29	TIPPS	5
Garden News	21	Tipton Carers	31
Nature Notes	6	Tipton Ladies Group	7
OSM Council	24	Tipton Past	28
OSM Choral	8	VOSRA	5
OSM Heritage	20	Weather	12

Tipton Fete 2026

August Bank Holiday Monday saw another successful and enjoyable Fete in the grounds of Tipton School and the Community Hall. After this year's scorching summer, I had begun to worry that my prayers for some rain for the garden might backfire as clouds gathered and showers fell in the days before the Fete but, yet again, the weather was kind to us and the sun shone on the day.

This year, out of an abundance of caution in view of the tinder-dry grass on the school field, we relocated the barbecue to the hard standing of the playground and moved the children's games, which were many and various, from there to the lawned area at the rear of the Community Hall. This also helped us to accommodate some additional stalls and we were delighted to welcome local businesses - Fern & Flow selling beautifully presented herbal teas, lotions and other products and Tipton Raw Honey selling (you guessed it!) delicious local honey. Tipton Ladies were also there, auctioning a lovely painting by local artist Lynda Kettle.



The Men's Shed attended with a wide range of handmade goods, together with Marion Hinds with her hand-crafted bags and accessories. Other stalls all did good business, offering a huge selection of books and jigsaws on the bookstall, bric-a-brac, jewellery, cards, toys and games, plants and produce and delicious home-made cakes - and my thanks go to all those who ran the stalls and who collected, sorted, made, baked, cooked and grew the wares on sale.

Ken, Paul, Roger and their helpers on the barbecue cooked delicious burgers, sausages and veggie burgers (2 varieties!) and Janet and her team worked hard to satisfy the

seemingly endless demand for cream teas and home-made cakes. Our splendid local musicians, Wonky Buzzard (Vanda, Chris, Martha and Josie joined, this year, by guest singer Blossom) performed their extensive repertoire of popular music which again contributed so much to the relaxed and happy atmosphere of our annual Fete.

Further entertainment was provided in the form of a wide range of children's games organized and overseen by Linda, Mo and their helpers. The ever-popular *how many sweets in the jar?* game was kindly provided and run by Shirley; the tombola/bottle stall was organised by Keith and Caroline (where I won both a bottle of shampoo and a bottle of shower soap, causing me to worry over my personal freshness ...) and there were raffles of an embroidered cushion and of a bottle of gin (and tonic) kindly donated by Sundial Care Home.

Thanks are due to the Golden Lion, Tipton Garage, Baters Removals, Sargent and Sons and the many other local businesses who again provided splendid prizes for the Grand Draw efficiently, as always!, run by Ann and Terry; to Elizabeth for collecting many of the prizes (and running the plant stall with Janet) and to Sundial Care Home for again making their grounds available for the convenient parking for our visitors and helpers.

Car parking was again efficiently supervised by Malcolm and his able team of high-vis helpers and entry at the gate by our *senior team* of June and Sue (who I hope will forgive me for this description!).

Our churches in Tipton and Venn Ottery are very pleased to arrange this event for our local community, but the funds raised also make a very important contribution to the funds needed for their work in the parish, the charities they support and, of course, the running costs of the churches themselves, and I am pleased to report that this year's Fete raised the record sum of just over £5,700.

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

Mike Smith, Fete Chairman



TIPPS

We are now turning our attention to February 2027 when we are producing the Pantomime Rapunzel, written and directed by Lea Pryer. It will run from 16th to 20th of the month with two performances on the Saturday. By the time you read this we will, hopefully, have found the cast and got a production team together.

In the meantime, of course, we have our exciting new project, a murder mystery directed by Kyle Hayes and Sue Hulley. You will find all the information as below and on the back cover poster.

Hope to see you at these events.

It's Getting Closer ... And Closer ...

That **Murder Mystery** will be upon us sooner than you think.

That Transylvanian hotel, Dunnem Inn is gearing up for an influx of visitors arriving for Halloween (in Tipton St John's Community Hall). Weird things happen and someone meets with an unfortunate accident. Your help is urgently needed to solve the mystery and find the guilty party. Be a guest at the hotel and enjoy a two-course meal with coffee and a well-stocked pay bar. Come on your own, in twos or why not fill up a table for six with some friends? Places in the dining room are going fast so take a look at the poster where all the information you could possibly want is provided. See you there on either **29th, 30th or 31st October**. Please read the poster on back cover for more information.

Kyle Hayes and Yvonne Kellett
07875 867222 ykellett@gmail.com

VOSRA

Partial Eclipse



Some sixty members, residents and friends met for an impromptu event on the Green on Wednesday 12th August to enjoy the partial eclipse, a drink and nibbles at sunset and catch up with friends and neighbours. It was a great way to watch the eclipse and relax in our beautiful surroundings.

New Picnic Benches on Venn Ottery Green

Thanks to the generosity of the Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council, we now have two new picnic benches on Venn Ottery Green, perfectly positioned to enjoy the Church and local surroundings. Grateful thanks also go to Councillor Hughes and Steve Silver (Parish Maintenance Contractor) who managed the installation. It's great to see the benches have already been used by members of the public.



Andy Finch

Nature Notes

Well, that was a Summer that surpassed last year's efforts! In fact, it was probably too hot for some and they say this could be the norm for some time to come. How the extended heatwave has affected nature will possibly reveal itself in the shorter term as Autumn establishes itself. While trees have been shedding their branches, and certain hedgerow fruits have been in short supply due to the dry weather, we will soon find out how it has affected the usually rich tapestry that Autumn provides. The garden certainly hasn't been as bountiful as it normally is!



It has been a wonderful summer for butterflies with many species not normally seen, being in such profusion in this country. A record warm spring gave butterfly populations an early boost, allowing species like holly blues and small coppers to emerge in high numbers and experts predicted and recorded a massive "painted lady summer" in Britain, with heatwaves and southerly winds pushing thousands of migratory orange butterflies north from Africa.

Blackberries arrived early this year and have been in abundance. I have been picking them from the garden since the end of July and have a nice quantity in the freezer! Blackberries are incorrectly named as they are not true berries. Instead, they are "aggregate fruits", agglomerations of individual berries known as drupelets. There is traditionally a date after which the berries should not be picked, most commonly taken to be Michaelmas (29 September) but later in some areas, after which time the devil is said to spit or stamp (or worse) on the berries, rendering them unfit. It seems likely that this is a reference to the grey botrytis cinerea mould which envelops the fruits later in the season.

Rose hips too don't seem to have suffered too much from the dry weather and are a rich source of vitamin 'C'. During the World War 2, when there were shortages of citrus fruits, the hips were collected and used to make 'rose-hip syrup' as an alternative. The seeds inside rose hips are covered in tiny bristles which can irritate the skin. They have been used by generations of kids as the main ingredient of itching powder. A potent reminder of my school days!

A damp Autumn brings on many wonderful fungal fruiting bodies, e.g. mushrooms and toadstools. Woodlands, both deciduous and coniferous, and old pastures are the best places to find fungi. However, they are everywhere and can be found on rotting wood and healthy trees, and in parks, gardens and on lawns for instance. One noticeable formation of toadstools is the fairy ring, formed by *Marasmius oreades*, although it can fruit from Spring through to Autumn. As the years pass the fungus spreads out further and further from the centre of the circle, and hence some examples can be proved to be decades old.

To quote Mr Keats, Autumn is the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'. It is also the season of bonfires so can I reiterate the annual message regarding hedgehogs. Please check your bonfires before you light them for these small creatures. As hedgehogs tend to hide in the centre and bottom two feet of the bonfire, check by gently lifting the bonfire section by section with a pole or broom. Never use a spade or fork as these can stab them. Using a torch will help and listen for a hissing sound, as this is the noise they make when disturbed.



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

Geoff Pinn

gjpinn@tiscali.co.uk

Tipton Ladies' Group

Lynda Kettle's life as a Production Designer for theatre and television



Our local artist, Lynda Kettle, gave a most interesting presentation of her life as an artist, designing sets and costumes for production of national theatre and television programmes. She created the sets for theatre, opera and ballet productions from first having to make technical drawings of the sets, and then creating cardboard models which were directly used to physically make the full-sized sets and paint the scenery. She also designed the costumes for these shows, using her knowledge of sewing to incorporate boned corsets and other authentic features of the period.

Lynda worked as Production Designer at the BBC Pebble Mill Studio designing sets for major television programs such as *Poldark*, *The Basil Brush Show*, *All Creatures Great and Small*, *Angels*, *Howard's Way* and *Date with Fate*.

Television was just opening up at that time, with pioneering work being done in set design using canvas scenery to build large rooms to look realistic.



Lynda enjoyed creating special effects for programmes such as *Dangerfield*. There were no computer graphics available in those days! In one episode, a murder had to be solved and they had to show the 'dead body' being surrounded by ten bags of blowflies and having to stick maggots to the model for realism! In another production of *Xanadu*, the production crew had to travel to Malta to the Mediterranean Film Studio. In the scene where the ship is sinking in a storm, water was pumped into the set's pond, 'whacker blades' produced the waves, a rain machine got everyone (including Lynda) soaking wet - and someone was hidden on the set, rocking the boat! This was all to make viewers think that it was completely real and that they were right there in it.

Lynda showed a wonderful exhibit of newspaper clippings, model sets and BBC Pebble Mill books and photos from her long and high-profile career in production design. Today, she works as an artist and runs courses from her art studio <http://www.lynda-kettle.com>. She is available for talks, demonstrations and commissions and creates both original work and prints. She is a member of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, Birmingham Watercolour Society, Midland Pastel Society and Birmingham Art Circle. She exhibits her paintings several times a year at selected galleries and is based at the Loft Studio in Libra Court, Sidmouth.

The Tipton Ladies' Group all agreed that this was a most unusual topic to be presented, and the talk was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Janet Jenkins

Bridge and hanging baskets

Many thanks to the watering teams of Alison and Janet, Anne and Sarah, Barbara and Tony, Gill and Allen, Jenny and Mick, Kay and Ian, Linda and Ray, Mo and Ken, Rosemary and James - and newcomers Jan and Roy and Jude and Andy. Alison again did a wonderful job in planting up the hanging baskets and Paula and Andrew helped with the bridge baskets. The nasturtiums took over towards the end of the summer but everything else has thrived throughout the hot, sunny days of 2026 (unlike the parched lawns and bedraggled flower beds elsewhere). As usual, the green (by the phone box) continues to be a *work in progress* - thanks to Cathy who has kept things watered and Will who cuts the grass. Also, to the garage who continue to provide water for the baskets.

If anyone would like to join the watering team, please let me know via tiptontimes2020@gmail.com.

Anne Sadler

Tipton St John Playing Field

Hello Tipton

Firstly I would like to say thank you to you all for supporting me for the last three years as Chairman and particularly the events sub-group last year which, hopefully you will all agree, helped transform the Playing Field into a place for the community. It was always my plan to bring back events for everyone to enjoy.



Unfortunately due to a new job role and family commitments I will have to step away from this role. I am still overwhelmed by the help and support from some of the community. I do believe we achieved most of the projects that we set out at the beginning of my chairmanship but there is still a lot that needs to be done.

I do wish the committee the best of luck for the future. If you would like to make a difference in our amazing community please step into one of our vacant roles ideally someone with new ideas, someone interested in continuing the community feel at the Field.

Our AGM is on **November 2nd at 7:30pm** in the Community Hall - at which we will need to elect a **new Chair and Treasurer** in order to comply with Charity Commission rules. If we don't there is a real risk that the village will lose control and ownership of our Playing Field. Please come along and show your support.

Keep using and enjoying this beautiful asset that Tipton is so lucky to have.

Mark Rigden. Chairman
rigden58@btinternet.com



Classics Galore!

Every two years since 2007 (with a brief hiccup during COVID lockdown) the Ottery Choral Society has been involved in a series of spectacular fund-raising concerts. The aim is to raise as much money as we possibly can for our local cancer charity, FORCE, who are based at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital and at our own Ottery St. Mary Hospital cancer hub. Our last concert in 2024 raised £20,000.

The next concert is on **Saturday November 14th** in the Exeter Great Hall for Classics Galore! It will be a great spectacle, with over 200 musicians on the stage - the Lymptone Town Band, the Classics Galore orchestra and a choir of nearly 100 voices. The programme will be a combination of foot-stomping favourites, some best-loved movie soundtracks and uplifting choral music. The combined choir of Ottery St. Mary Choral Society and the St. David's Players will be singing some favourites from Handel and Faure, some opera excerpts, the stirring Finlandia and a wonderful medley from The Sound of Music.

The renowned and regular Classics Galore! soloist Cheryl Enever is singing with us again, bringing her glorious operatic voice and, no doubt, a spectacular spangly Union Flag gown, to our very own Last Night of the Proms experience.

The evening will be hosted by Victoria Graham of BBC Spotlight.

It is an unfortunate fact that nearly half of us might receive a cancer diagnosis at some point in our lives. At times like these, patients and their families need all the support they can get. FORCE provide free counselling, group sessions, complementary therapies, benefits advice, and specialist physiotherapy and exercise guidance, to cancer patients and their families. They are not part of the NHS and receive no regular government or NHS funding but are funded entirely by donations and fund-raising.



Let's make this the most successful night so far and fill this huge space with sound, music and song. Tickets are on sale now and going quickly www.ticketsource.com/classics-galore-exeter.

Peter Hudson

Obituaries

We are sad to report the recent loss of three previously well-known fathers of Tipton families.

Jim Bartholomew who for thirty years lived in Chrystal Close, Stephen Childs, a forty-eight year resident in Green Lane, Venn Ottery and Rod Ackrill of Venn Ottery.

Jim Bartholomew

Jim, Nan and their three children were a real village family. All the children attended Tipton School and Nan was a great supporter of village organisations, helping to run the Youth Club for several years.

When Jim retired from his partnership in Carless and Bartholomew, Opticians, at the bottom of Fore Street, Sidmouth they moved to Honiton to be near their daughter, Julie.

Jim had a lifelong love of football, being a great supporter of West Ham and Exeter City, though in Tipton was mainly remembered as the organiser of the Table Tennis Club which played very successfully in league matches. Woe betides anyone who entered the hall during a league match on Monday nights. He was also a founder member of the Cricket Club.



Stephen Childs

Stephen, another local businessman, had an office in Connaught Road before he joined Easterbrook and Eaton in Old Fore Street, Sidmouth. Prior to becoming a Chartered Accountant, Stephen had attended and then worked at Seale Hayne Agricultural College where he met Joyce, his wife.

Together they kept a herd of pedigree Lleyn sheep at their smallholding in Green Lane. The family were also keen horse owners, supporting Tipton Horse Show where Stephen was often seen riding his big skewbald, Jinty.

For some time, Stephen was the Treasurer of the PTFA at Tipton School which their children all attended.

Another of his interests was playing music and he was a loyal member of Honiton Town Band where he played the tenor horn for over thirty years.

Sadly, he suffered dementia in his last few years and died in 'Fernihurst', Exmouth.



Roderick Alexander Ackrill

2nd June 1944 - 13th August 2026.

Rod was born in Birmingham in 1944 and later moved to Tamworth. He worked in sales and became a manager in Lewis's Department Store, where he met his future wife June. She worked on the switchboards and was introduced to Rod by her friend - they were both smitten from the very start. They married in the West Midlands in 1971. They were able to celebrate their 55 years of happy marriage earlier this summer.

Rod's work meant that they often moved around. Whilst in Launceston, their first child Sara was born. Charlotte came next in Solihull, followed by Matthew in Salisbury. When Rod's work brought him to Devon, they moved to Venn Ottery. At first, Rod managed commercial vehicle sales for Evans Halshaw at Greendale and then worked for himself from home.



Rod and June enjoyed village life, along with their children, taking part in variety shows and pantomimes. Rod had a great love for singing and had a wonderful voice which meant that he took part in barbershop performances in the village hall. In his youth he recorded a beautiful cover of the song *Long Black Limousine* at the Birmingham School of Music, which was played at his funeral.

Rod enjoyed spending time watching cricket matches on the Tipton Playing Field and he and June would attend their Annual Dinner Dances. He would socialise with his friends at the Golden Lion and he and June both arranged group coach trips out to other pubs and restaurants.

At home he enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren, whom he doted on. He loved to walk their beloved dog Mischa and relax with their cat Chloe.

In 2014 he spent three months in hospital with pneumonia, one month of that time was spent in a coma. He recovered but suffered with constant ill health, including sepsis and Parkinsons. He died in August in Sidmouth Nursing Home.

Rod was and always will be, a much-adored husband, father, grandfather, brother, son, uncle, cousin, colleague, neighbour and friend.

We will remember him with love, gratitude, humour, integrity and respect, for those were his greatest strengths.

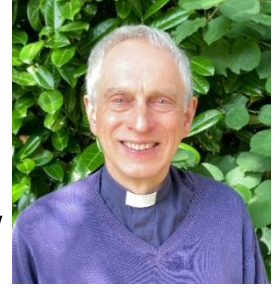
In Rod's words "Night night, love you, God bless".

We send our sympathy to Nan, Joyce and June, their widows - and to all nine children, one boy and two girls in each family.

Ann Knight and Judith Taylor

Thought For The Times

During my sabbatical in the summer, I had the opportunity to visit Holy Island (Lindisfarne) off the coast of Northumberland. The island is joined to the mainland by a tidal causeway. When the tide is out, you can drive or walk across; when the tide comes in, the causeway is impassable. Most people most of the time play it safe. There are clear timetables. But human nature being what it is, each year a few people get caught out cutting it too fine. And because of that danger, a refuge hut has been built on the side of the road nearest the deepest part. As I hope you can see from this photograph, the refuge is a simple hut but on stilts holding it above the highest tides. A walker or driver in danger of being overwhelmed by the incoming tide can find refuge until the danger has passed. (The fate of the driver's car would not be so good and would make for a challenging insurance claim!)



Holy Island is a beautiful place to visit just for the landscape, but for me the visit was something of a spiritual pilgrimage. As the 'Holy' name implies, the island has a long Christian heritage, and one name associated with it is St Cuthbert. Learning more about St Cuthbert and his way of praying the Psalms has inspired and encouraged me in my praying of the Psalms, and this was an important theme of my sabbatical.

Across the 150 Psalms found in the biblical book of Psalms, God is described as a refuge 44 times! Some of those even say that the Lord God is a refuge "in times of trouble." As I prayed these Psalms this refuge hut was a lovely picture of what it means to find refuge.

God is far more glorious than a wooden hut, and he is not to be kept in reserve only for times when we are desperate, but we all experience times in our lives when we feel overwhelmed. We can feel overwhelmed by work, family, financial worries, addictions, ours or a loved-one's health, grief or any number of life's pressures. When it feels as though the tide is rising, we can find refuge in the God who is higher than all our troubles.



Mark

Friends of St John and St Gregory Club

1st (34)	Chris Schofield	£30
2nd (45)	Lionel Dodd	£20
3rd (23)	Patrick Walker	£15

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

Table Tennis in the Community Hall

7.30pm on Mondays

12th & 26th October

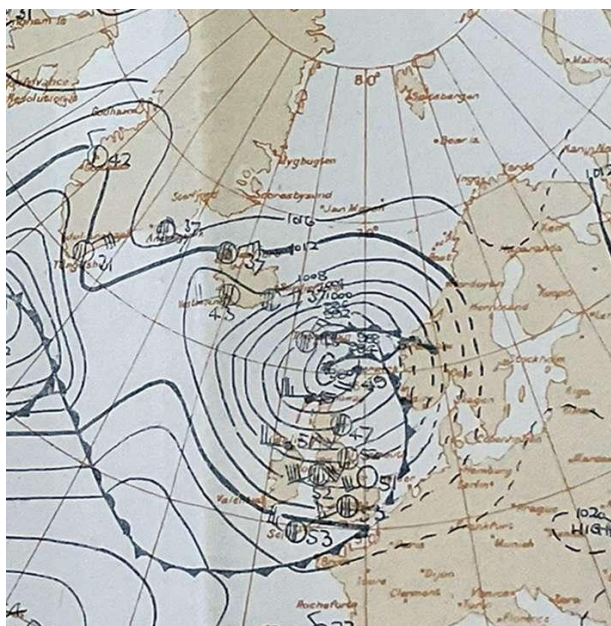
9th & 23rd November



Tipton Times Weather

I joined the Met Office fascinated with the science of meteorology and how we could use it to forecast the weather. However, it wasn't long before I realised that, while an accurate forecast might be scientifically interesting and satisfying to the meteorologist, it was of no value unless someone used it to make a decision. In the end I spent as much of my research effort on how to help people make good decisions from uncertain forecasts, as I did on improving the forecasts themselves.

With this in mind, although today's weather forecasts are infinitely more detailed and "accurate", there is a strong case that the best weather forecast ever made was by Group Captain James Stagg of the Met Office on the 4th of June 1944. Stagg was the Chief Meteorologist for the Allied Expeditionary Force planning the D-Day Landings under the command of General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Operation Overlord (the D-Day invasion) was planned for June 5th. In those days there were no satellites or computers and only a very limited number of weather observations, with around ten weather ships reporting from across the Atlantic - weather data was highly classified information during the war. Based on his analysis of these observations and his meteorological understanding, Stagg and his team forecast a severe storm over the English Channel on the 5th. The American forecasters used different techniques based on historical records and predicted fair weather, while a third Norwegian team backed the British team's forecast. Eisenhower was anxious to launch the expedition as soon as possible before the Germans got wind of it, but Stagg advised him strongly to delay by a day to the 6th when he predicted a brief interlude of lighter winds and fair weather after the storm. Eisenhower was convinced by Stagg's arguments and delayed the invasion. In the event Stagg was correct - the 5th saw a major storm with 50 knot gusts in the



Channel as shown here in Stagg's own chart, which would have been disastrous for the invasion. Operation Overlord went ahead on the 6th and was a major turning point in the war - without Stagg's superb forecast, and powers of persuasion, the whole outcome of WW2 could have been quite different - hence the claim to be the best weather forecast ever made.

Why am I telling you this now? The film *Pressure* has just been released telling the story of Stagg's forecast and is in cinemas now. Some of my retired colleagues provided meteorological advice to the Director. You might like to go and see it! I am going to. *Pressure* was showing in Sidmouth in mid-September but hopefully will be back.

Ken Mylne

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:

12th October:	Fast Food - Slow Death?
9th November:	It's a Hornet thing
14th December:	RAF Exeter 1940-45

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.

Tipton St John Cricket Club

With one more match to play the statistics would suggest that this has been a very successful season with victories in 20 out of 27 matches played. However, the picture isn't as rosy as it first appears: we should have played 42 matches and most of the ones cancelled were due to a lack of players.



The problem would appear to be in the recent loss of a few players who turned out for most matches. Altogether 57 different players represented Tipton this season but 34 of these played only 3 matches or fewer, because they were mainly recruited from other clubs to help us out. Our challenge next season, then, is clear: we need to build a core of players who can play 50% of our matches or more and to encourage occasional players to play a few more games.

So, if you're interested in playing some cricket next year there is definitely room for you at Tipton, either as a regular or occasional player. Keep a look out for information about next season in the spring or, even better, get in touch to introduce yourself: contact details are below. We welcome players of all experience and ability and only play friendly cricket at the loveliest of grounds on our own village playing field (and of course away fixtures elsewhere in Devon).

Individual players who deserve a particular end of season mention:

- John Buckland once again passed 1000 runs at an average of 87 per innings including one century
- Other century makers were Brendan Coles (twice) and Matt Davies
- Phil Wright: 38 wickets including two 5 wicket spells and a hat-trick
- Owen Smith: 34 wickets and one 5 wicket spell
- John Buckland and Leo Raichura also took 5 wickets in a single innings
- John Buckland has taken the most catches (14) with Captain Dave Thayre not far behind on 14

Many thanks to everyone who has worked so hard this season in challenging circumstances including Dave Thayre for his exemplary leadership on the field, Phil Wright for his excellent match reports, scoring and statistical endeavours and Jem Gillham for umpiring and, especially, for all his efforts in ensuring that our pitches are well-prepared and maintained.



Charles O'Higgins on his way to 50 against Woodbury & Newton St Cyres in the annual Dave O'Higgins memorial match which Tipton won by 3 wickets

David Birch, Chair

(07929 822940)

Follow us:

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

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

<https://bsky.app/profile/tiptonstjohncc.bsky.social>

Community Hall

Autumn has arrived very suddenly and that means the trustees of your lovely village hall have started their series of quizzes. The first one will have taken place by the time you read this. You do all love a quiz! For the rest of the year the dates are **11th October, 15th November and 13th December**. I look forward to seeing many of you there as well as some new faces. It is a quiet time for the social activities we put on for everyone but watch this space for future fun evenings.

The hall is used by many regular clubs and activities but we are now getting a lot of new organisations wanting to book it for their functions. This is excellent for us and the community. It brings in new faces and swells our coffers. Running the hall and keeping it looking good costs money. The floor has just had its annual clean and polish and is looking lovely.

See you at the quizzes.

Kyle Hayes



Children-in-Need Ramble and Tea on 17th October 2026

I have found a receipt for money raised in 2016, so this village event has been running for over 10 years - where have they gone? We began by walking in the morning led by Jo Earlam, then enjoying a lunch of homemade soup, ploughman's or omelettes produced by chefs Terry Knight and Paul Kinson who set up a cosy little café in the small hall.



In 2020 we were curtailed by Covid but managed the walk - well apart - and a 'socially distanced' tea in the main hall. What with anno domini this proved an easier format, so we now stick to a walk, with various distance options and a tea. The latter, as was the lunch, is open to all - not just walkers.

This is such a worthwhile cause and living as we do in a particularly beautiful part of the country it seems only right that we should enjoy it to the advantage of those less able.

Please support us by walking the route(s) devised by Jo starting at 2.15 pm from the Community Hall or just come and enjoy tea and a chat from 3.00pm. Minimum donation £5 but it would be really good if some of the walkers had sponsorship. Cake donations also very welcome.



BBC Children-in-Need

Saturday October 17th

Community Hall Tipton St John

Local Ramble and Tea

Ramble starts 2.15pm

Teas from 3.00pm

Come for either or both

**All proceeds to
Children-in-Need**



For sponsor forms or more information:

Ann Knight 812040 annknight@gmx.com

Church News

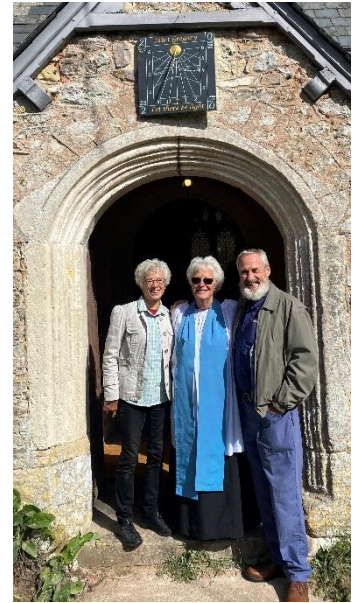
I begin with a big thank you to everyone who came and supported our Church Fete this year. Despite a slightly worrying weather forecast, we survived with just one tiny little shower mid-afternoon - do read the report from our Fete Chairman, Mike Smith, elsewhere in this edition of TT.

Thank you too to all who have supported one - or more - of our harvest celebrations this year. At the time of writing, we've only had our harvest and patronal festival at St Gregory's, Venn Ottery, which was notable for two special reasons. At the service the new sundial that had been kindly made and donated by Martin Jenkins was blessed by Caroline and, appropriately, there was plenty of sun for everyone to see what time it was. The day also marked the launch of a book on the history of St Gregory's written by Ann Knight and Judith Taylor - copies are now available to buy in the church. We are very grateful to Martin, Ann and Judith for giving their time and talents in support of our church.

It's not too late to drop off physical donations of packaged produce and other items for St Petrocks, the homeless centre in Exeter. Our collection points in our two churches or at my house, St Mary's, Hayne Close, will remain open until 12th October. The wish list of items to bring (or items you can buy online for delivery to St Petrocks) can be found at: stpetrocks.org.uk/get-involved/donate-items/.

Historic Churches Sponsored Cycle Ride

Malcolm Hamilton, one of our churchwardens, completed his cycle ride on Sunday 13th September having been sent on his way by the congregation at Tipton Church's 11am service - see photo. He visited all twelve churches of the Otter Vale Mission Community, plus the added bonus of Aylesbeare, making 52km in all. With gift aid he has raised an amazing £850 to be split between our own parish churches here at Tipton and Venn Ottery and the Devon Historic Churches Trust (devonhistoricchurches.co.uk/). Well done, Malcolm! It's not too late to sponsor him if you wish - just visit his [JustGiving page](#).



Special Services

We have a few special services over the next two months. Firstly, on Sunday 4th October at 6.30pm in Tipton Church we have a service of Evening Prayer in memory of Chris and Desmond Dunn. This will be one day after what would have been Chris' 100th birthday. All of their former friends in Tipton are warmly invited to this celebration of their contribution to the life of our church and the village.

On Sunday 1st November at 3pm in Tipton Church we hold our annual service for All Souls where we remember and give thanks for loved ones we have lost, not just over the past year but those we still miss. On the following Sunday, 8th November, we welcome all who wish to join us in our Service of Remembrance in honour of all who laid down their lives in service of our country including those from our own community. Please note this service begins promptly at 10.55am in Tipton Church so that we can participate in the national two minutes' silence at 11am.

Café Church

Café Church continues on the 3rd Sunday of the month in Tipton Community Hall. On 18th October we'll be looking at Jesus' instructions for sending us out into the world to tell people about him and then on 15th November we will be thinking about the Parable of the Talents. As usual doors open at 10.30am for coffee, pastries and chat with a time of informal worship starting around 11am - all are welcome, young or old, and if you've never been to church before this service is for you.

Homegroup

Our homegroup is a place where we can grow together in faith through study of the Bible and conversation with others who want to grow too. Meeting together in a home in this way also helps us grow together as Jesus' followers here in this parish. Over the next few months we will be meeting in different homes but it will still be starting at 7.30pm each Thursday evening from 1st October onwards. All are welcome to come and join us, just bring your Bible. Do contact me (details below) if you'd like to join us and find out where we will be each week. The one exception to this pattern is on 15th October when we will hold a Prayer Meeting in Tipton Church which is open to all (not just homegroup members).

Quiet Times and Morning Prayer

On the first Wednesday of every month at 9.30am we now have a service of Morning Prayer in Venn Ottery Church with coffee afterwards. On every other Wednesday, also at 9.30am, there is a dedicated half-hour of silent prayer giving us a much-needed quiet space where we can escape the noise of the world. Again all are very welcome to join us.

Coffee Mornings

I end with a reminder that our monthly coffee mornings return on Saturday 3rd October. Do come and join us in Tipton Community Hall from 10am until 12 noon.

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

David Williamson, Licensed Lay Minister, Otter Vale Mission Community

St Mary's, Hayne Close 812493 Email davidhwililliamson@btinternet.com

POSITOV - Pilgrimage of Song in the Otter Valley

The Pilgrim Singers are a motley collection of people from a variety of places in England and Wales who love singing church music. They have been meeting for a long weekend for more than 20 years at Knighton on the Welsh Borders to walk together with Jesus, enjoy meals together and sing as a choir together in churches and chapels on the way.

There have been three pilgrimages to the Holy Land, singing with Palestinian Christians and worshipping in the Holy Places. Last autumn we were at Aberdaron on the ancient pilgrimage route along the north Wales coast which leads to Bardsey Island "Isle of 10,000 Saints". It was there that I had the idea for a pilgrimage, POSITOV, here in the Otter Valley. We may not be on an ancient pilgrimage route, but we do have wonderful walking country and a goodly number of welcoming historic churches. The theme is celebrating creation and **anyone is welcome to come and listen** (and join in a hymn perhaps):



Tuesday 6th October

- 11.30am Morning Prayer at Colaton Raleigh Church (short service)
- 2.00pm Midday Prayer at Newton Poppleford Church (short service)
- 4.00pm Evensong at Harpford Church (main service)

Wednesday 7th October

- 11.30am Morning Prayer at East Budleigh Church (main service)

Thursday 8th October

- 11.00am Morning Prayer at Ottery St Mary Parish Church (main service)
- 4.30pm Evening Prayer at Venn Ottery Church (short service)

We will also have a singing assembly with the Tipton St John Primary School children during the day, but regret that there won't be room for an audience.

Haylor Lass (Newton Poppleford)



Beavers

The Tipton St. John Scout Group are looking for adult volunteers to help with their Beaver section.

The Beaver section runs on a **Monday** evening from **5pm until 6:15pm**. The Beaver age group covers 6 to 8 year-old children.

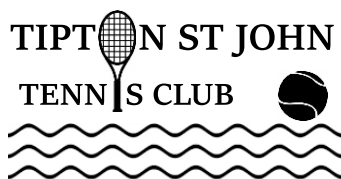
If you have some spare time and would like to volunteer, we would love to hear from you.
Please email: tiptonstjohnscoutgroup@gmail.com

Cubs

The Tipton St. John Scout Group are looking for more young people, aged 8 to 10 years old, to join their cub pack.

The cub pack meets on a **Tuesday** evening, **6:30pm to 8pm**. The cub programme includes a wide variety of activities from wide games such as capture the flag, campfire cooking, athletics, night hikes, overnight camps, learning outdoor skills such as fire lighting, knots, pioneering, and much more.

If your child would like to join Tipton Cub Pack, please email: tiptonstjohnscoutgroup@gmail.com



Tennis Club

What an amazing summer it has been for tennis and the club has taken advantage with great attendances at both Wednesday club nights and Tuesday morning ladies. Last time I reported on progress in the summer leagues and it seems amazing that as I write now we have already played our first match in the winter leagues! Also, we are delighted that Tipton Primary School is once again using our courts for a few sessions this term to introduce the children to tennis - we hope they have a lot of fun.

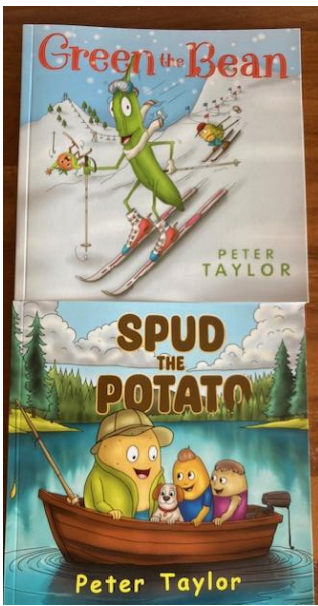
So how did the summer leagues go? The less said about the Men's B (which I play for!) the better - we came bottom of our division and are relegated, but we still had fun and hopefully next year we will be better matched with the opposition in a lower league. Last time Captain Steve Upsher said that the Men's A were recovering from a slow start and indeed they finished 4th out of 8 in Division 4 with a balanced result of won 5, lost 5 and drew 4. It was particularly good to see our two new juniors progressing rapidly and securing some great wins later in the season - well done to them both. As mentioned last time, the Ladies had a great summer, winning 7 of their 12 matches and only losing 4, to finish 3rd in Division 4. All round a lot of great tennis on our lovely riverside courts and worth remembering that nearly all the clubs we play against are from much larger towns and villages than Tipton!



As always, prospective members are most welcome at club nights on Wednesdays from 6pm or at the Tuesday morning ladies' session from 9.30am. Come and give us a try! As we go into the autumn, we offer half-price membership for the remainder of our year (until April) for new members. We are running Men's and Mixed teams in winter leagues and are always on the lookout for new team players. See our website at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/TiptonStJohnTennisClub> for membership details.

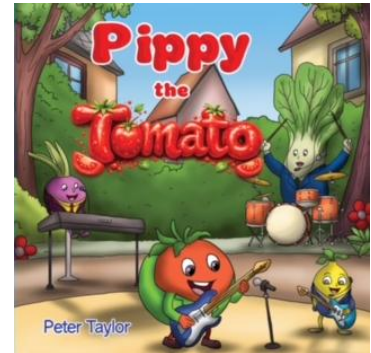
Ken Mylne, Chair

I live in Tipton at Otter Close. I started studying nutrition in 2000 and after 25 years as a practicing nutritional medical consultant I decided to devote my time to writing about food, the food industry and the threat to the health of young children.



I decided to write a series of short adventure stories involving characters from the Fruitable community. Each character has a little adventure with the emphasis on determination, effort and kindness. The aim is to engage children aged 5 - 9 with fruits and vegetables so the books are semi-colouring with information regarding the origins of the fruit or vegetable. Additionally, I suggest planting some seeds indoors so that children can see the vegetable or fruit grow.

Green the Bean came first. He goes skiing and, well, the rest would be telling! Spud the Potato asks his two sons, Gary and Walker to go fishing one weekend, but the real hero is Gary's dog, Crisp! Pippy the Tomato, out at the end of September, assembles a band to play at the local fete with dire consequences! Nicolas the Nectarine, a Xmas story is out in October. Books for next year include Crunch the Carrot, Dr. Apple, Agnes the Aubergine and Seville the Orange.



All the books are available at all bookshops and on Amazon. If Tipton school would like me to come over and talk about the stories I am happy to oblige.

Peter Taylor

Who said Memory Cafes are just about chatter, cake and tea?!

Thanks to the inspiration of a local couple, Alina and Jerome, our Memory Café attendees had the opportunity to visit Budleigh Salterton to meet two of the team from Pebbledbed Heaths Conservation Trust for a short talk on local developments on the wetlands, to peacefully observe and, for some, to draw the wildlife before a delicious lunch of fish and chips offered by Rockfish! Alina and Jerome had successfully gained funding through the East Devon National Landscape fund to cover the costs of taking some of the Memory Café attendees for this trip, as well as funding to cover the cost of the 'SenseOceans' project.



The project will run over the next few months allowing us all to experience not just the taste of the sea, but a range of multisensory experiences to include music, art, touch and smell. The project will culminate in items of creative work for each attendee as well as larger end products for display purposes.

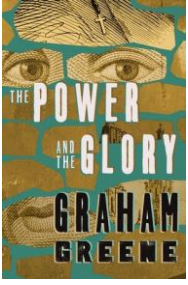
The knock-on effects of such sessions are wide, the meeting together and chatting in the minibus as we travelled through the beautiful countryside of East Devon, the sensation and chill in the air as we observed the wildlife through many pairs of binoculars, to the fun of attempting to draw a bird, before the gentle amble or push in a wheelchair along the walkway to Rockfish. A warm welcome from the team and the glowing fire was much appreciated as we settled to a hot cuppa before a chance to sample cockles and be served for free a tasty plate of fish and chips! Without exception we all had a great meal, the room filled with chatter about our antics of the morning as well as new friendships and support networks established.

For some a little resting time for a sit by the sea perhaps with an ice cream or coffee. For others, time to amble along the pathway before we all gathered together to head homewards. Whilst all expressed their weariness there was more time to chat and even a quick rendition of 'In Dublin's Fair City!'

If you would like to know more about the Memory Café or other activities organised and supported by the Ottery Help Scheme or would like to become a volunteer, please contact the office on 01404 813041 or via email: info@otteryhelpscheme.co.uk

Theresa Pollard

Tipton Readers



The Power and The Glory Graham Greene

Another 'old timer' choice from me. This one listed in 2005 by Time magazine as one of the best 100 English language books since 1923. At first, I was a little disappointed - hard to 'get into' and not a very riveting story line. As the book group meeting drew near, I thought I should have another go and this time found the writing really good with some

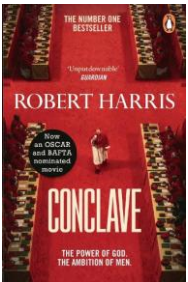
memorable descriptions, especially of people's feelings. Still not a page turner though. Maybe that is because so many terrible consequences of politics, war and dictatorships have happened since the Mexican Cristero War (1926-29) that their plight did not seem so relevant. Graham Greene had researched the book well during his visit to Mexico in 1938 though the geography of Tabasco is not meticulously described.

The central character, an unnamed 'whiskey priest', inspired by Miguel Pro (a Jesuit executed in 1927, on false charges and without trial) is trying to escape over the border to a less severe state but is continually 'called back' to serve the religious needs of the poverty-stricken agriculturists. He encounters the Lieutenant who is determined to exterminate all priests due to childhood experiences of their oppression. There are many minor characters, one of the main ones a mestizo, a Judas figure waiting to claim the reward for betrayal. Having carried out the execution the lieutenant is thwarted by the arrival of another priest.

The book provoked a good discussion but several of us felt that we could have got a lot more from it if we had been reading it under instruction, for 'A Level for example. Obviously a good, well written book but a bit heavy going for leisure reading. The average score was 6. A reflection of us rather than the book perhaps!



Ann Knight



Conclave by Robert Harris

Robert Harris typically writes historical novels based on real events, such as *Munich* which we read recently around the pre-WWII Munich conference. I enjoyed that, so was intrigued to see how he would tackle a papal conclave. *Conclave* is rather different in that it is set in approximately current time following the death of a fictional pope, although several historical popes are mentioned. The story is narrated by Jacopo Lomeli who, as Dean of the College of Cardinals, is responsible for the smooth running of the secret conclave to select a new pope.

With 118 cardinals gathering in Rome, we were all a bit concerned about keeping track of the characters, but it soon transpires that there are 4 front-runners: Cardinals Bellini (liberal from Italy), Tremblay (modern reformer from Canada), Adeyemi (traditionalist from Nigeria with potential to be the first black pope) and Tedesco (arch-traditionalist from Italy who would like to roll back the reforms of recent popes). Shortly before the conclave starts Lomeli is surprised by the arrival of an unknown Filipino cardinal, Vincent Benitez, now serving as Archbishop of Baghdad and whom the late pope has appointed cardinal *in pectore* (in secret).

As the voting starts, Lomeli is dismayed to find that his preferred candidate, Bellini, is falling behind while he has picked up a few votes himself. Without giving too much away, Lomeli gradually learns various rumours and scandals about some of the candidates and faces the dilemma of whether or how to reveal these to the voting cardinals, resulting in changing fortunes in successive votes. Not surprisingly, these reflect some of the scandals which have rocked the Catholic Church over the years, and one or two of our members disliked the book for perhaps overstating the negatives by bringing them all together in one book. In my view, this was nicely balanced with some very positive piety and humility, particularly from Lomeli in his attempt to ensure the conclave follows the will of God. The book also gives some fascinating insights into the workings of a papal conclave in the magnificent setting of the Sistine Chapel, which Harris has clearly researched in some detail.

Harris further brings in the modern divisions between different religious groups when the conclave is interrupted by an Islamic terrorist attack, but Lomeli skilfully steers the conclave to conclusion despite this. Many will have seen the film, but I won't give away too many spoilers about the outcome of the voting or Harris's surprising twist at the end. I would thoroughly recommend reading the book to find out (I am told that the film is also excellent and a good representation of the book). Most of our members would agree, with an average score of 8.6 despite the couple who didn't like it. As for me, I am seeking out more Robert Harris books!

Ken Mylne

Ottery St Mary Heritage Society

Last month, when the Heritage Society members and friends met in The Institute, instead of an outside speaker, the meeting had a focus on the developing vision of the society to be active in research and to involve members in it. This was presented through the perspective of various members who shared their particular interests and how they did historical research.

The first talk was by John Hall, author of "Murky Waters" which is set in Ottery during the Reformation period following 1545, which was overseen by lawyer John Haydon of Cadhay House; ten years later Knightshayes Manor was also taken by the Crown.

While the town gained a grand church and a school, the community of priest-scholars and their library of 700 books was lost - although 100 have since been identified through Bishop Grandisson's habit of writing notes in the margins.

Historian Chris Wakefield continued the theme, showing images of the earliest known maps and early maps of Ottery which are instructive in studying the distribution of wealth and property in the Georgian period when the mill was built.

Society Chairman Peter Shrubsall spoke about plans to remodel the museum as a more social community space, and to develop the vision of the society to involve members in projects. One of these was outlined by Denise Melhuish who asked for help in compiling a database of older Ottery buildings that had survived the 1866 fire. Much historical data was searchable and help was on hand to enable people to do their own research.

More detailed summaries will appear under Society Highlights on <https://otteryheritage.org.uk> in due course.

We're back to the usual pattern of monthly talks and this month's speaker on **Tuesday 20th October** is Brian Margetson, who has collected images, photos and anecdotes about Britain's ferry crossings. Some, which carry passengers across the Exe and Teign rivers, are familiar sights which build on a tradition of centuries.

On **17th November**, the talk is about Sidney Cotton, a blunt Australian who treated authority as an obstacle, and both World Wars as opportunities for his inventive skills which included aerial photography.

Come to The Institute, Yonder Street, Ottery at 7pm for refreshments before the talk at 7.30pm.

Non-members are always welcome - we ask for a modest contribution, refundable if you decide to join this friendly society and support its museum and heritage activities.



Ian Greig

Garden News

Eagers Beavers meets Garden News!



It's taken a little while to search out this garden and talk to Clinton and Lisette but we've finally made it and what a joy it's been. It all began when Clinton and I met at an event and he showed me some pictures of the garden and I said it would be perfect to write about. I took a chance of calling as the deadline was fast approaching and as I stepped over the bridge and through the arch to get to the front door I was amazed at what I found. I know it would not be everyone's choice of garden design but I was intrigued. Nobody was at home on this occasion but I lingered a while and took a few pictures.



There was a old gnarled wooden table and chairs and other sculptural pieces of wood with ornaments and trinkets of all kinds, some catching the light and others tinkling a tune as they swayed in the trees. There is a hedgehog house and they have many visits from Redge each night! Regular readers might remember that this is where Spike was given a home ... Spike is a Agave Variegata which I thought was too dangerous to have in my garden with little ones ... I was delighted to find him sitting proudly in the front garden with a baby in another pot nearby. My friend used these plants as a security cordon around her house in Botswana ... hopefully Spike isn't needed for that purpose in Tipton!



Subsequently I called again and Clinton took me through to the back garden too. Just this year they have had french doors put in replacing a window so they open out onto a small paved area with a glorious pond beyond. It is the most inviting entrance into a garden. The planting of grasses and Pennisetums around the pond together with a mixture of interesting objects and the sound of the water falling into the pond creates an oasis of calm. Clinton always keeps his eyes open for objects that need a new life ... you find something round every corner.

When they first moved in the garden had little in it except the willow tree and this is still here providing dappled shade and movement in the small seating areas. Throughout the garden the Eager Beavers message is obvious ... wild areas, plenty of Ivy flowers providing much needed nectar for the bees ... they were loving it on this sunny afternoon ... and absolutely no pesticides or poisons. I like the use of mirrors too which give the illusion of space in what is quite a small space.



We had a conversation about the healing nature of gardens and you can feel that this garden has that in spades (Sorry about the pun!) It was a delight to spend time there. A big thank you to Clinton and Lisette for a magical garden visit.

Alison Stevens

Jess Bailey

Independent Devon County Councillor, Otter Valley Ward



Tipton School Update

There was a brilliant turnout from the community at the drop-in session held in the Community Hall on 23 July. The event was organised by DCC's planning consultants to help inform the planning application that is due to be submitted.

Throughout the summer, DCC's technical consultants have continued to progress the reports required to support the outline planning application. The application is expected to be submitted at the end of September or beginning of October. Once the application goes live on East Devon District Council's planning portal, it will be

important for residents who support the proposal to submit their comments.

As well as liaising with DCC's project team throughout the summer, I have continued to work closely with the Department for Education and the School. I remain hopeful that DCC will be able to satisfy the Department for Education's requirements so that the project can proceed. Securing outline planning permission is a key part of this process.



Local Government Reorganisation

As many residents will be aware, the Government announced in July its decision to reorganise local government in Devon into four unitary authorities. The programme has since been paused and, at present, there is limited information about what this actually means. The Government had selected the least popular of all the options and it would have meant Tipton St John falling in the huge rural authority.

The costs involved to date by DCC will have been substantial and I understand that Devon County Council is seeking to recover these from Government.

EDDC Community Grant Fund

East Devon District Council has launched a new round of its Community Grant Fund. The scheme is available to voluntary groups, charities and social enterprises that provide support to residents across East Devon.

A total of £118,454 has been made available during the 2026/27 financial year to support voluntary and charitable activities.

The fund consists of:

1. **Small Community Grants** of between £300 and £1,500.
2. **Community Building Grants** of between £500 and £10,000.

Further information is available on the EDDC website.

Cllr Jess Bailey

01404 814056

email jessica.bailey@devon.gov.uk

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



Tipton St John Community Update

As we move into autumn, there is positive news for residents alongside a small amount of planned disruption on the roads.

Road Closures

No further road closures affecting Tipton St John have been identified on the Ottery St. Mary Town Council website for October or November at the time of writing. Residents are encouraged to keep an eye on local notices for any future updates.

Positive Progress on the Future of the Primary School

There has been encouraging progress on plans to secure the long-term future of Tipton St John C of E Primary School. The school has faced significant flooding due to the flood risk associated with its current location.

Many residents will remember the 2024 proposal to relocate the school to Thorne Farm, Ottery St Mary. Following strong community feedback, Devon County Council agreed to look again at options within the village itself.

The latest information suggests that land west of Tipton Vale is now being assessed as a potential location for a new purpose-built school within Tipton St John. Detailed technical work has been progressing throughout 2026 and Devon County Council has indicated that an outline planning application is expected to be submitted during the autumn term.

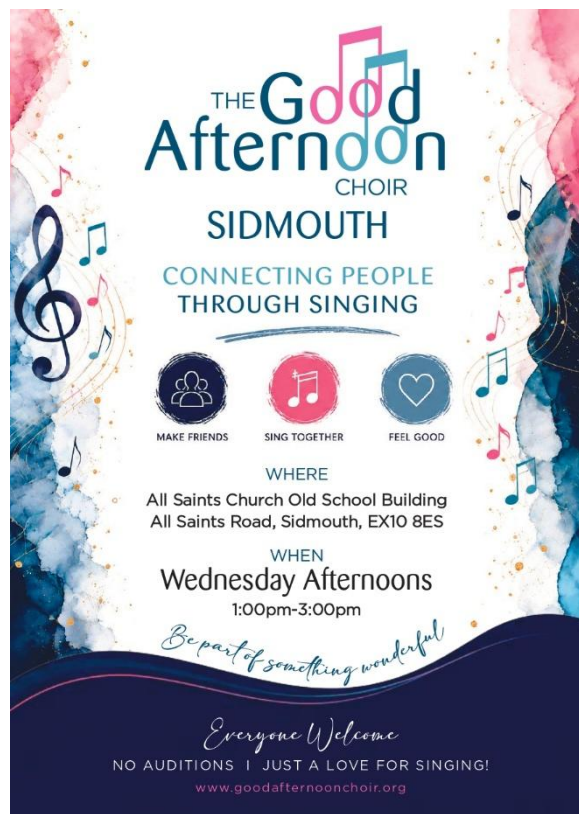
This represents a significant step forward in efforts to provide local children with modern, flood-resilient facilities while retaining a primary school at the heart of the village. Residents recently had the opportunity to view emerging proposals and speak directly with the project team at a community drop-in event held in the village.

The coming months are likely to be important ones for the project and many in the community will be keen to follow its progress as plans continue to develop.

We will continue to share updates on both local highways works and the school relocation project as further information becomes available.

Cllr Dr Sarah Martin

sarah.martin@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk



THE **Good** Afternoon
CHOIR
SIDMOUTH

CONNECTING PEOPLE
THROUGH SINGING

MAKE FRIENDS SING TOGETHER FEEL GOOD

WHERE
All Saints Church Old School Building
All Saints Road, Sidmouth, EX10 8ES

WHEN
Wednesday Afternoons
1:00pm-3:00pm

Be part of something wonderful

Everyone Welcome
NO AUDITIONS | JUST A LOVE FOR SINGING!
www.goodafternoonchoir.org



EDDC Cllr Vicky Johns had submitted a written report. EDDC Cllr Peter Faithfull had nothing to report. EDDC Cllr Bethany Collins had not submitted a report.

DCC Cllr Jess Bailey reported that Mill Street had been reopened. Devon County Council (DCC) have issued National Grid with a fixed penalty notice for breaching their permit. Cllr Bailey had written to National Grid to suggest that businesses affected by the closure should be compensated, and she remained of the view that the traders concerned ought to receive compensation. Cllr Bailey had also requested that she be notified in advance of any future closures. Cllr Bailey had visited Sandhill Street and had requested that the road surface be inspected. Talewater Bridge is due to re-open by the end of the week; Cllr Bailey had also visited West Hill Road, which was due to be inspected later this week. The outline planning application for Tipton School was expected to be submitted in September. Preparatory work had been ongoing and drop-in sessions held with residents had been received very positively. Regarding LGR, Cllr Bailey expressed that she was glad the process had been paused, having raised concerns about West Hill and Aylesbeare not being placed within the same area as Ottery St Mary; Cllr Bailey has chaired the Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee, which had been examining the decision to pause maternity services at North Devon Hospital, taking the role of a critical friend. The Committee was also considering matters relating to unpaid carers, dentistry, and Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections.

A member of the public asked when the Council had become aware of the proposals concerning the site in Tipton St John for the rebuilding of the primary school. It was noted that the Council had been informed two days before the public announcement was made.

The minutes of the following committees were noted: Planning Committee, Community Infrastructure Committee, Operations Committee and Human Resources Committee. Copies of the agendas and minutes can be found on the Council website.

The Council made the following decisions:

- that Devon County Council (DCC) be instructed to conduct a feasibility assessment to establish the viability of a pedestrian crossing at Broad Street, at a cost of £10,000.
- that an offer be made to purchase the land situated in front of the Council offices, including the adjoining grassed area.
- that up to £54,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding be used on the Wayfinding project.
- that the Winter's Lane tennis courts will be resurfaced using S106 funds and that any trees impacting the tennis court fence will be removed.
- that the Christmas lighting will be extended to three premises in Mill Street who have requested it. It was agreed that further power banks will be sourced if required.

It was noted that a hedgerow replacement notice has now been sent out to the landowners of the hedge at Gerway and a notice has been published. There is a time period that EDDC needs to wait to hear back from the landowners.

Members of the Council have met with representatives from Devon County Council regarding the Coleridge Pre-School building, and a further meeting is being arranged in due course.

It was noted that the Government had placed Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution on hold whilst the Secretary of State conducts a review.

The Clerk will be meeting with a representative from Honiton Town Council to discuss the Night Bus survey in the near future. It was anticipated that the survey would subsequently be circulated to the parishes to enable both Councils to decide whether the initiative should be included in the budget for 2027/28.

There was no update available regarding the survey for a 20mph zone outside of the town.

The Council approved the updated Complaints Policy.

The August 2026 Receipts and Payments and Reconciliation reports were approved. The July 2026 CCLA reconciliation was also approved. The Council noted the budget monitoring reports for the period up to 31 July 2026.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Section 3 External Auditor Report was received and it was noted.

The Mayor's written report was received. Cllr Johns reminded all councillors that the Council is a non-political Council and urged members to adhere to the Code of Conduct at all times.

The Clerk reminded the Council that a vacancy existed which will be filled by co-option. It was noted that the deadline for applications was 2 October 2026 and that the vacancy had been advertised. Further information is available on the Council's website.

It was agreed that the Council was content for its logo to be included on a poster advertising an Eco Homes open weekend taking place in Ottery St Mary and Sidmouth at the beginning of October. Cllr Faithfull abstained.

Cllr Sneller raised concerns regarding vehicles being left parked on the roadside. It was confirmed that an abandoned vehicle should be reported to EDDC.

It was noted that signs had been erected at the start of Strawberry Lane indicating the road was closed, resulting in the lane being a more pleasant and safer environment for pedestrians to walk through.

It was further noted that double yellow lines had been installed in Ridgeway Gardens by Devon County Council. Councillors were reminded that parking and highway matters of this nature fall within the remit of the Devon County Council Highway and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC), and that any residents wishing to raise concerns should contact Devon County Council Highways directly.

Future Full Council meeting dates:

- Monday 5th October 2026 Tipton St John Community Hall at 7pm
- Monday 2nd November 2026 Council Offices
- Monday 7th December 2026 Council Offices

Useful dates:

- **Citizens Advice** at Council Offices every Tuesday from 9.30am until 11.30am (subject to volunteer availability) or telephone 08082505703
- Festive Cheer and Christmas Light Switch on - Friday 27th November

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

Friends of Ottery Library ... what now?

It was really good for a while. On the 20th of May 2026, Devon County Council made a unanimous decision to save the opening hours of Devon's libraries. They may have been motivated by the number of replies to their Consultation, roughly twenty-five thousand, the highest response the Council had ever had, or by the passionate speeches made at their meetings by Library Friends, or by the bailout of their deficit SEND budget by central government, or by their own conviction that Libraries are a Good Thing.



Anyway, they did it. And so did you! The support from all around Ottery and Tipton was wonderful; the six-month consultation revealed a buoyant community spirit (over 1800 people signed a petition to keep Ottery Library's hours), and the Council's decision revealed that sometimes our voices are heard. And since then, Ottery Library has been the usual, thriving, lively, vibrant, you-name-it, under the aegis our Library Supervisor, Kerry Carr. Kerry is a shining light behind a flimsy front desk in a rather cramped little Library, but she oversees the adult facilities and the children's activities with an easy grace and continuing success.

But now look what's happened: Libraries Unlimited, the charity that runs Devon's libraries for DCC, and always cash-strapped, has undertaken a Staff Consultation. Two words that sends shivers down the spine of anyone who's ever had a job. The Consultation proposes the abolition of the eighteen Library Supervisors and introduces nine new Communities Managers. Here the new 'area manager' would cover the unlikely trio of Ottery, Honiton and Axminster libraries. Results of the Consultation are to be announced on 19th October and the new regime will start on 1st January 2027.

In the meantime, we carry on borrowing books from one of the loveliest little libraries in the west.

Marilyn Spidell, Secretary, Ottery Library Friends

Recipe Corner Devonshire Honey Cake

I was recently asked if there is a recipe for a cake made with honey. I do have one, but not to hand at the moment, so here is one from the Good Food magazine that should work equally as well.

Ingredients

- 250g clear honey, plus about 2 tbsp extra to glaze
- 225g unsalted butter
- 100g dark muscovado sugar
- 3 eggs beaten
- 300g self-raising flour



Method

1. Preheat the oven to fan 140° conventional 160° or gas 3. Butter and line a 20cm round loose-bottomed cake tin. Cut the butter into pieces and drop into a medium pan with the honey and sugar. Melt slowly over a low heat. When the mixture looks quite liquid, increase the heat under the pan and boil for about one minute. Leave to cool for 15-20 minutes, to prevent the eggs cooking when they are mixed in.
2. Beat the eggs into the melted honey mixture using a wooden spoon. Sift the flour into a large bowl and pour in the egg and honey mixture, beating until you have a smooth, quite runny batter.
3. Pour the mixture into the tin and bake for 50 minutes - 1 hour until the cake is well-risen, golden brown and springs back when pressed. A skewer pushed into the centre of the cake should come out clean.
4. Turn the cake out on a wire rack. Warm 2 tbsp honey in a small pan and brush over the top of the cake to give a sticky glaze, then leave to cool. Keeps for 4-5 days wrapped, in an airtight tin.

Enjoy!

Jenny Pinn

Discover the Otter Estuary at the Wetland Weekender This Autumn

As autumn arrives on the Otter Estuary, thousands of migratory birds will pass through or pause to refuel on one of Devon's most important wetland habitats. With changing colours across the landscape and shifting tides shaping the estuary each day, it's the perfect time to get outdoors and reconnect with nature on our doorstep.

Join the **Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust** for the **Wetland Weekender**, taking place from **23rd to 25th October 2026**. This exciting three-day event will bring together wildlife, learning, creativity and community on the **Otter Estuary Nature Reserve**, with activities and experiences designed for everyone from keen birdwatchers to those just beginning their interest with the natural world.

Across the weekend, visitors can enjoy a wide range of guided walks tailored to different interests and activity levels, from birdwatching, botany and local history to gentle social strolls and Trampler hire. Experience the reserve at its most magical with opportunities to watch wildlife at dawn and dusk, take part in family-friendly discovery activities, workshops and expert talks.

One of the reserve's most frequently photographed visitors in recent years, the osprey, has captured the imagination of local wildlife enthusiasts. Don't miss our Friday evening talk at The Holt, in which Otter Estuary Ranger Rick Lockwood and Seb Loram from the **Devon Osprey Partnership** will explore the importance of wetlands like the Otter Estuary as vital stopover sites for migrating birds and discuss the exciting possibility of ospreys breeding on the estuary in the future. It's sure to be an inspiring talk about a success story in the making.

On Saturday, the **Holt at Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club** will serve as the event hub. Visitors can drop in between 9am - 4pm to browse displays, take part in activities and enjoy refreshments before or after exploring the reserve on their own or as part of the weekend's guided activities.

In a collaboration with **South Devon Stitches**, crafters of all ages and abilities are invited to help create an embroidered panel inspired by the wildlife of the Otter Estuary. Wildlife enthusiasts can also meet naturalist and author **Andy Swash**, who will be showcasing and selling a range of his acclaimed **WILDGuides**. Meanwhile, **SW Optics** will be based at the Island hide, offering expert advice and the chance to try a selection of binoculars and spotting scopes.

On Sunday, take **Action for Nature** by getting involved in practical activities on the reserve, meeting local environmental groups, building a bird box or supporting volunteers at a fundraising cake sale. Whether you're a keen birder, a nature lover, a crafter or a walker, there really is something for everyone and we hope to see you there.

www.pebblebedheaths.org.uk/whats-on



Tipton Past

In 1869 Elizabeth Taylor (not the film star) was born in Metcombe to farmer William Taylor.

Before she was even a year old her mother Rebecca sadly died. Elizabeth went on to attend school at Tipton where she was reputed to be a good student, and when she left school at thirteen, her older brother James and herself were sent out to work, as was expected in



those days. Her brother went as a servant to Tipton Farm and Elizabeth, at just thirteen years old, was to help the Skinner family at Hayne Farm. Farmer Isaac Skinner had two young children whom she was to care for, the youngest Norman was just over a year old and Minnie who was three. So, in November 1882, Elizabeth went to work as the children's maid at Hayne Farm.

Elizabeth found her first experience of work very distressing and couldn't settle. She didn't like being away from her home, she was very unhappy and cried frequently. Her parents were called for.

William (and his second wife) came to see her and the problems seemed resolved until just ten days later Elizabeth was accused of poisoning young Norman. Benzoline had been smelt on the baby, but this was explained away by the child apparently having been allowed to blow out an oil lamp. But just a few days later the baby was brought to the mother, screaming, with stains on its mouth and nightdress. After much discussing, Elizabeth said that she had allowed the child to play with a bottle of iodine that had been prescribed to another servant at the farm. The doctor was sent for and when he arrived, he found the baby pale, quiet and evidently frightened. He believed that whilst the baby had been exposed to the poison, he had ingested very little, if any of the liquid. After several days of care, the baby made a full recovery, but Elizabeth was charged with unlawfully and maliciously administering poison to Norman Skinner. When apprehended she told PC Salter that she had "given the child the bottle to play with, as he was always cross. They should have let me go home, and I should not have done this." She was charged on four counts and committed for trial at the quarter sessions at Ottery St Mary. She was subsequently allowed to go home once her father paid the bail charge. In early 1883 she attended court where the charges of administering poison to an infant were read out, along with the details of the case.

Hon. Bernard Coleridge said that "the case was one which would move the feelings of all when they saw a girl of such tender years standing before them". He contended that the facts of the case did not show craft and cunning on the part of the prisoner. Even the baby's mother remarked how "the girl loved the baby, and the baby loved the girl".

The jury, after a consultation of about ten minutes returned a verdict of guilty on two of the counts and recommended the prisoner to mercy on account of her youth. Elizabeth was sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment with hard labour, with five further years to be spent in a reformatory.

Poor Elizabeth, only thirteen and no doubt scared, she would firstly have gone to Exeter prison where she would have endured the experience of solitary confinement and hard labour such as turning a heavy crank or picking oakum - this was untwisting old, tarred ship ropes. She was then most likely sent to Devon and Exeter Reformatory for girls, on Polsloe Road, where she would have been prepared for domestic service, learning strict heavy household chores such as laundry, cleaning, sewing and cooking.

THE ALLEGED BABY POISONING CASE
NEAR OTTERY.
THE ACCUSED COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.



In 1891, after serving her time, we find Elizabeth working at the Exeter Hospital as a maid, using the skills that she no doubt learnt at the reformatory. Whilst in Exeter she also met her future husband Louis and in 1896 she came back to Tipton where they married at the church. They went on to run a boarding house together.

The children from Hayne Farm remained in the local area. Minnie Skinner never married but became a music teacher and was the housekeeper at her widowed father's board house in Sidmouth. Norman, the little baby, went onto to live and work in Exmouth but unfortunately died aged thirty-seven from the Spanish flu and is buried, along with his mother, in Tipton Churchyard.



This story shows us how the expectations and hardship of children in work have changed over 140 years. What was expected of a thirteen-year-old in 1882 was very different to the life of a teenager today.

Judith Taylor

Ref. The British Newspaper Archives, Ancestry.



Full Moon Labyrinth Walks

- everyone welcome

Join us for a peaceful evening, walking our labyrinth Ariadne's Thread beneath the light of the full moon.

Whether you're looking for a moment of quiet reflection, a chance to slow down after a busy week, an opportunity to meet new people or simply an excuse to spend time outdoors under the moonlight, you'll be warmly welcomed.

Walking a labyrinth is not a maze - there are no wrong turns and no special beliefs or experience are needed. You simply follow a single winding path at your own pace.

Some people walk in silence, others enjoy chatting before and afterwards, while many simply appreciate the calm and beauty of the evening. Our labyrinth has wide, level paths that are suitable for most abilities, including wheelchair users and those who prefer an easy, gentle walk.

Come on your own, with a friend, or bring the whole family. Everyone is welcome, whatever your age, background or beliefs.

Upcoming walks:

Saturday 26th September 7pm

Monday 26th October 7pm

Tuesday 24th November 7pm

We'd love to share these peaceful evenings with you. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Lisette Johnston

07870 967250

l.f.johnston@hotmail.co.uk

Church Calendar For October and November 2026

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

OCTOBER

Saturday	3 rd	10.00 am	Coffee Morning and produce stall	Community Hall
Sunday	4 th	10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Evening Prayer (including commemoration of the late Chris and Desmond Dunn)	N.Pop T.S.J.
Wednesday	7 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	V.O.
Sunday	11 th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J
Sunday	18 th	10.30 am	Café Church	Community Hall
Sunday	25 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.

NOVEMBER

Sunday	1 st	10.00 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion All Souls <i>Remembering our Loved Ones</i>	N.Pop T.S.J.
Wednesday	4 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	V.O.
Saturday	7 th	10.00 am	Coffee Morning and produce stall	Community Hall
Remembrance Sunday	8 th	10.55 am	Remembrance Day Service	T.S.J.
Sunday	15 th	10.30 am	Café Church	Community Hall
Sunday	22 nd	9.30 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
Sunday	29 th	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Service of the Word Advent Carol Service	T.S.J. O.S.M.

DECEMBER

Saturday	5 th	10.00 am	Christmas Coffee Morning, cakes and produce stall	Community Hall
Sunday	6 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion	N.Pop

ONLINE SERVICES

In addition to the live services and events listed above, an online Service of Worship takes place at **9.30 am** on the following Sundays **4th & 18th October and 1st & 15th November**.

Details about accessing it are on our webpage at www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8805 : open the services tab or contact one of our Licensed Lay Ministers, Caroline Poultney (carolinep2023@outlook.com) or David Williamson (davidhwilliamson@btinternet.com).

REMEMBERING AT TIPTON

SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER ALL SOULS 3pm
Remembering our Loved Ones

SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER at 10.55am
Remembrance Sunday Service

Diary Dates - October and November

All dates correct at the time of publication.

Art, Craft, Hobbies and pastimes in the Community Hall every **Thursday** from **2.30 - 4.30pm**

October

10 th Oct	10.30am	Carer Support Group, Brambledown	see below
11 th Oct	7pm	Quiz, Community Hall	P14
12 th Oct	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P11
17 th Oct	2.15pm	Children in Need Ramble and Tea	P14
19 th Oct	7 for 7.30pm	Tipton Ladies Titanic talk, Community Hall	
26 th Oct	7pm	Full Moon Labyrinth Walk, Playing Field	P29
26 th Oct	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P11
29 th , 30 th , 31 st Oct	7 for 7.30pm	Murder Mysteries, Community Hall	P5

November

2 nd Nov	7.30pm	Playing Field AGM, Community Hall	P8
9 th Nov	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P11
14 th Nov	10.30am	Carers Support Group, Brambledown	see below
15 th Nov	7pm	Quiz, Community Hall	P14
16 th Nov	7 for 7.30pm	Tipton Ladies Christmas crafts, Community Hall	
23 rd Nov	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P11
24 th Nov	7pm	Full Moon Labyrinth Walk, Playing Field	P29

December

13 th Dec	7pm	Quiz, Community Hall	P14
----------------------	-----	----------------------	-----

Tipton Carer Support Group

I can't believe it's been a year now that the Tipton Carer Support group began to meet. Thanks to everyone who's come along, it's made for some meaningful conversations and mutual support.

Forthcoming dates are **Saturday 10th October** and **Saturday 14th November, 10.30am to 12.30pm** at Brambledown, Green Lane, EX10 0AH.

In the wider caring world changes are taking place with the ending, from September 30th, of the contract held by the excellent Devon Carers, and carer support being taken in house by Devon County Council. I'm very concerned about what this will mean for carers, and I spoke at a meeting of the Adult Health Care Scrutiny Committee about it. I've been asked to feedback any reaction, thoughts from carers generally, which would be anonymous obviously. Please email if you're affected by these changes or would like any general information.

Thanks.

Jo Earlam
jo.earlam@hotmail.co.uk

Murder AT THE Dunnein Lnn

TRANSYLVANIA



When?

THURS 29TH
FRI 30TH
SAT 31ST
OCTOBER 2026

7PM FOR
7:30PM START

Where??

TIPTON ST. JOHN
COMMUNITY HALL



Why???

CAN **YOU** SOLVE THIS MURDER MYSTERY?

WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/TIPPS



TICKET INCLUDES A
**2 COURSE
MEAL**

£24

SUITABLE FOR
OVER 11 YEARS

PAYING
BAR
PROVIDED



All tickets must be booked by 8pm 26th Oct