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Ipplepen
Magazine

February 2026



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The Ipplepen Magazine

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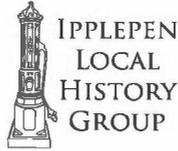
The magazine is also
available online.

www.ipplepenmagazine.com

**Copy deadline for
next month's issue
15th February, 2026**

The Ipplepen Magazine is produced each month and 1,350 copies are distributed free of charge to every household and business in the Parish.

Clerk to Ipplepen Parish Council	813250
Ipp Church Hall	p.emmerson@live.co.uk
Ipplepen Village Hall (booking)	813906
Teignbridge District Council	01626 361101
Devon County Council	0845 155 1015
Devon County Council (Roads and Transport)	0845 155 1004
Ipplepen Health Centre	874450
Ipplepen Primary School	812226
Saplings (Pre-school and before/after school clubs)	812466
Newton Abbot Hospital	01626 324500
Torbay Hospital (Switchboard/ general enquiries)	614567
NHS Direct (24 hours)	111
Police – non-urgent calls (24 hrs)	101
Electricity (24 hour emergency service)	0800 365 900
Gas (24 hour emergency service)	0800 111 999
Water (24 hour service)	0800 230 0561
Martin.Wrigley.MP@Parliament.uk	
Ipplepen Hub	01803 814100



February Talk



On **Monday February 16th** the Local History Group are delighted to welcome local author and historian Tracey Norman. Discover how our ancestors managed a range of ailments, from bruises to toothache. What did snails and earthworms have to do with medicine? For what did they use calves' feet? And what prompted accusations of witchcraft against some people, yet not others? As well as giving talks Tracey writes non-fiction and fiction in several genres. Her book 'Dark Folklore' was published in 2021 by The History Press and her first full-length novel, the supernatural gothic adventure 'Who is Anna Stenburg?' was published in October 2023 by American publisher Liminal Books. Her play 'WITCH,' available as a full-cast audio production, was based on events in a real witchcraft trial from 1687 and has been used by schools and universities as Theatre in Education.

MONDAY 16th FEBRUARY

A Talk by Tracey Norman

Plants, Poultices and Persecution



VILLAGE HALL 7.30pm

ENTRANCE £4/MEMBERS FREE

RAFFLE/REFRESHMENTS

THANKS

I wish to thank everyone who gave me flowers and cards for my Birthday.
Happy New Year to everyone.

Beryl Morgan.

IPPLEPEN MEMORY CAFE

St Andrews Church Hall

17th February, 2026 2pm until 3.30pm

Theme: A surprise!

Coordinator David Garland 07342884432

Secretary Rose Debenham 01803 813458 Or 07549827620

If you wish to attend please contact the above persons.

Next meeting 17th March



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Director: Simon Curtis

7.30pm, Wednesday, 11th February

When Mary finds herself in a public scandal and the family faces financial trouble, the household grapples with the threat of social disgrace. The Crawleys must embrace change with the next generation leading Downton Abbey into the future. (IMDb)



IPPLEPEN VILLAGE HALL

Doors open at 7.00pm

(Admission from 6.45pm for Ipplepen Film Society members)

Tickets on the door: Adult £4.00 (members £3.00), Child (under 15): £2.00

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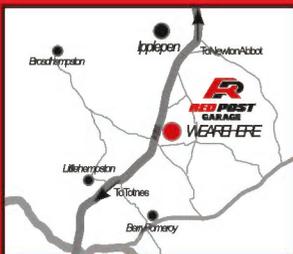
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Ipplepen Amateur Dramatic Society

Well, I hope you were lucky enough to get to see our 2026 pantomime production of “ALICE in WONDERLAND”, written by Ben Crocker, directed (and tweaked a little) by our fabulous Dave Wells and produced by our equally fabulous Carina Darnley.

Wasn't it just amazing?

Every year I say it, but I am *genuinely astonished* by the outright professionalism of our little, village Amateur Dramatic Society. I am sure you are too. So, on your behalf, if I may, I'd like to send a huge congratulations and a heartfelt thank you to all of those involved in this joyous and popular entertainment. You must agree it was a *perfect* way to start the New Year in the village.

We only see the finished, polished end result of months of hard work and dedication. There is so much that has to be created from scratch, learned and rehearsed until word perfect, timings and pitch honed till just right. Sound, light and movement layered, intertwined and pulled together by our team; who do it because they love to and certainly balance all the effort with a lot of fun and enjoyment in the doing!

All this creativity and skill gifted by a handful of people that live here in Ipplepen, your neighbours! Makes one feel quite proud to belong to this community don't you think so?

I must also send a grateful, big thank you to the support team, the admin and front of house. These volunteers may not have any of the limelight, but we wouldn't have a smooth-running show without them.

All that remains is to thank all of you who came along and packed the village hall, filling it with your laughter, heckling and song.

The more is always the merrier in Pantoland.

[P.S. - Now, you have a few months to consider whether you may like to become involved in our next pantomime, or sooner if you would like to join in with other productions, such as “Two's Company”.

As you have read there are many roles on and off stage which will be waiting to be filled. Look out for notice of our next **Pantomime Interest Meeting** in September in this magazine and for information about our other productions and activities which, again, will be advertised here and on our Facebook page.

We are a very friendly bunch always ready to welcome new members.]



CAFE - LIBRARY - EVENT HIRE - TODDLER TIME - GRIEF CAFE - CRAFT GROUPS



The Hub is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am – 4pm.

We offer hot home-cooked lunches every Tuesday and Thursday, with bacon rolls on Wednesdays, and jacket potatoes and toasties at all times.

We have an impressive well-stocked library, with DVDs and jigsaws too.

Our Toddler group is from 9am on Thursdays, and is now in the huge newly-decorated and -opened back room. We have a ramp for buggies.

Upcoming free events, open to everyone, with no booking required:

- Wed. 11th February from 10.30am – Digital Drop-in – hosted by Mark.
- Wed. 11th February from 2pm – The Grief Café – hosted by Cathy.

In order to staff our busy café and library, **we need volunteers**. We work in shifts, so typically you'd do either 10am-1pm or 1-4pm.

For the library, you just need to know your alphabet, have legible handwriting, and use an old-fashioned ink date stamp! Please ring 01803 814100 to talk to us.

For the café, you'll be trained in the use of the coffee machine and till, and will always work alongside at least one other person. Call in or ring for a form.

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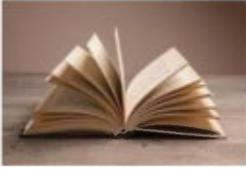


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**IPPLEPEN
VILLAGE HALL**

WEDNESDAY 11TH FEB



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This month a music extravaganza with Phil Jeffrey - starts 1:30pm

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Village Hall



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The Church In Ipplepen



So what is going on in church at the moment?

We are moving from our Christmas Celebrations to the season we call Lent which begins this year on 18th February which is Ash Wednesday.

Lent is the season in the church year that leads up to the celebration of Easter. It coincides with the beginning of spring in nature's cycle of the year with the delight of spring flowers in our hedgerows and gardens. In contrast to the spring flowers however church decoration in this season is sparse. Why? Well, we are creating a little bit of desert.

The place of the desert in God's dealings with his people is very important. God leads people into the desert to do two things. 1. Develop intimacy with him and 2. To do some spiritual battle and develop some spiritual muscle. We see this pattern throughout scripture. God leading individuals and communities to desert places to do these two things. The overarching story Christians reflect on during the season of Lent is Jesus being guided into the desert by the Holy Spirit following his baptism and before he begins his ministry of preaching, teaching and healing.

As well as noticing the desert nature of church decoration you may also be aware of some of the traditional practices that Christians do at this time of year.....fasting and acts of self-denial; more time praying and reading the Bible; time given to self-examination and reflection; acts of charity. These practices have the same two goals as times in the desert. 1. Developing intimacy with God and 2. Developing spiritual muscle.

If I was to use a sporting analogy. The season of Lent and its associated practices is like a sports person going to train in a gym with a coach or trainer. This time in the gym builds up muscles and stamina and also builds the closeness of the relationship with the trainer/coach. The goal of this work in the gym is to be able to perform well in a chosen sport whatever that maybe. To move well and with fluidity on the field of play, the court or the track.

Similarly the season of Lent is a time each year leading up to Easter when Christians get into the spiritual gym and work on their spiritual muscle and closeness to God. The fruit and goal of these endeavours is to find that in their everyday lives they can live more easily loving, patient, joy filled, peaceful, kind lives.

So that is what is going on in Church at the moment. We are in the season of Lent leading up to Easter. We are working on our intimacy with God and our spiritual muscles.

St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen

Contact us

Rector: Reverend Andrew Down 813403
The Church Office: Mrs. Alice Blanchard 814178
St Andrew's Church Wardens: Mrs. Sue Hird 813386 Mr. Clive Tompkins 07704 919994
St Andrew's Church Hall Hire: Pauline Emmerson p.emmerson@live.co.uk

February 2026 – Services

Sunday 1st February – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Time	Service	Location
09.00am	Holy Communion	Denbury
11.00am	Holy Communion + Children's Activities	Ipplepen
5.00pm	Encounters – New Service	Ipplepen Methodist Church

Sunday 8th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

Time	Service	Location
09.00am	Holy Communion + Children's Craft Table	Broadhempston
11.00am	Holy Communion	Ipplepen
5.00pm	Evening Prayer + Benediction	Denbury

Sunday 15th February – Sunday before Lent

Time	Service	Location
09.00am	Holy Communion + Children's Activities	Denbury
11.00am	Holy Communion + Children's Activities	Ipplepen

Wednesday 18th February - Ash Wednesday

Time	Service	Location
10.30am	Holy Communion – Imposition of Ashes	Denbury
7.00pm	Holy Communion – Imposition of Ashes	Ipplepen

Sunday 22nd February – 1st Sunday of Lent

Time	Service	Location
09.00am	Holy Communion	Woodland
11.00am	Covenant + Communion Service	Ipplepen
5.00pm	Reflective/Taize Evening Worship	Broadhempston



St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen

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Church Working Parties!



Ipplepen – 1st Saturday of each month @ 09.30am
 Denbury – 2nd Saturday of each month 10am-12noon
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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Ipplepen – 1st + 3rd Sunday
 Broadhempston – 2nd Sunday
 Denbury – 3rd Sunday

Ash Wednesday
 18th February

Holy Communion
Imposition of Ashes

Denbury – 10.30am
Ipplepen – 7.00pm

February 2026 – Additional Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Saturday 7 th February (1 st Saturday of each month)	10am – 12 noon	Coffee Morning	The Parish Rooms, Denbury
Wednesday 4 th February (1 st Wednesday of each month)	12 noon	Food for Thought Lunch Club	Church Hall, Ipplepen
Thursday 12 th February (2 nd Thursday of each month)	10.30am	Coffee Mates	Church Cottage, Denbury
Saturday 14 th February (2 nd Saturday of each month)	10am – 12 noon	Coffee & Chat!	St. Andrew's Church, Ipplepen

Special Occasions marked with floodlighting of the church tower

Retrospect
 The month of December For Susan McNicol and all children of Ipplepen, from Dan and Maggie McNicol

For February
 22nd – 28th Feb Remembering Len Harber on the anniversary of his death
 'In remembrance of my darling husband David Hatten who died 25 Feb 2015 and whose birthday was 17.5.1948' from Margaret Hatten
 In loving memory of Wendy Osborn on her birthday on 26th February, with love the Hooker and Osborn families

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- Donations can be made by cash, cheque, BACS, via www.justaiving.com/fundraising/ippleflood or via the QR code




IPPLEPEN METHODIST CHURCH

Preachers for February



1 st 10.30	Local Arrangement
8 th 09.30	Family Breakfast Church Sara Crouch Informal worship with children in mind
15 th 10.30	Mr Fred Bell
22 nd 11am	Rev Paul Weir Communion Service

All are welcome to any of these services

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IPPLEPEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT FOR JANUARY 2026

What a welcome to the New Year, a really large turn out of members which was great to see. Everyone sharing details of their Christmases and New Year which now seems a long time ago and at least it was relatively mild and dry. Long may it last but I think I might be being a little optimistic.

We had arranged a slightly different speaking event this month. We held our version of 'Desert Island Discs' with a well known figure from the village. Very few people knew who to expect but were delighted when Alistair Dewhurst, a retired Devon, Teignbridge and Parish councillor was introduced.

Although not born in Devon Alistair spent most of his life here. His parents owned Dornafeld caravan park which Alistair and his wife Judy, in later life, helped to run. Before that Alistair had a very interesting life.

He initially went to boarding school at Wolborough school in Newton Abbot then later on went to KEVIC in Totnes. He seemed to find time here to escape from the back of the Mansion to a coffee bar where they had a juke box. His first favourite pop record was played here. It was "A Whiter Shade of Pale" by Procul Harem. I'm sure many of you remember it. When he went to KEVIC his favourite became 'Oh Well' by Fleetwood Mac.

He started to train as a quantity surveyor but realised that this was not for him and eventually ended up in the Rag trade, working for others and then owning his own shop at the bottom of Totnes High Street. The shop was a great success and still operates a dress shop (the one with the bow front!)

Alistair loves Bach and two of his choices were by Bach. The first was the Brandenburg Concerto No.6 in B-Flat Major and the second the Goldberg Variation 1a. The later piece is quite lively and he used to listen to it as he started work at the caravan park. The Brandenburg he listened to on his many car journeys.

His other choices of classical music were 'Come ye sons of Art-Ode to Queen Mary' by Purcell and the overture from 'Giulio Cesare in Egitto' an opera by Handel. He developed a love of opera, especially the lesser known ones.

He married his wife Judy in 1982. They have two children, a daughter Alex and son Edd. The music he dedicates to Judy is 'Have I told you lately' by Van Morrison. Very romantic. If you meet Alistair ask him about his wedding. Fascinating! His other choice was 'Hoppipolla' by Sigur Ros, a nonsense piece.

The record he would save from the waves is "Goldberg Variation. The book he would like is an anthology of Wilfred Thesinger or a copy of his Arabian Sands and his luxury item would be a washbag containing all he needs to be able to present himself to the world.. He would also like a Man Friday for company!

We were grateful to Alistair, who gave us a very enlightening and interesting insight into his life and who had prepared his selection of records with great care and enthusiasm. Thank you.

He has now moved to Kingsbridge where he is one of the drivers for the train that runs along the estuary, very relaxing, as well as helping with mentoring of other politicians and being a patron of the Deaf Academy in Exmouth. A man of many talents.

Our next meeting is on 10th February when we have a magician- Jude Coram
Do join us.

Barbara Hersey -Secretary



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IPPLEPEN PARISH COUNCIL

Report on Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6th January 2026 for a more detailed report please read the draft minutes (yet to be approved at our next meeting) on our website: www.ipplpenparishcouncil.gov.uk

CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence this month.

AMENITIES:

The Minutes of the Amenities meeting held on 9th December 2025, were approved and taken as read.

- a) Bowling Club visit – Coun.Carnell and Coun.Rattlidge met with the Bowling Club and suggested they don't put a gate in along the fence and just take out a couple of panels to be able to empty the septic tank. They also mentioned that the hedge needs cutting.
- b) Parish Council hedges have been cut around the Village.
- c) The heaters at the Recreation Ground toilets had a fault. This has been dealt with by an electrician.
- d) Water supply to urinal at Clampitt Road toilets - After investigations this is not seen to be a problem.
- e) EPC was carried out in 2024 for the Millennium Centre.
- f) The Christmas tree was removed on Monday 5th January 2026, 'Thank you' to all the Councillors that helped.
- g) The new cleaner for the toilets started on 2nd January 2026.
- h) The Star on the Christmas tree needs replacing – Coun.Palethorpe will look into this and let the clerk know so she can order a new one.

SKATE PARK – Coun.Rattlidge

The Parish Borrowing have replied back and have asked for more information. The clerk and Coun.Palethorpe have arranged to meet. Coun.Palethorpe proposed, seconded by Coun.Rattlidge (all unanimous) for the following:

It was RESOLVED to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a PWLB loan of £60,000 over the borrowing term of 10 years for the (new wheeled Skate Park). The annual loan repayments will come to around £6,000.00

It is not intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments.

KERSWELLA CARE

It was a short month in December as we stopped offering transport from the 19th December to give our volunteers a well-earned break over Christmas and the New Year.

We only had 44 transport requests in total – two were cancelled.

For the Ipplepen area – including Compton Denbury etc we had a total of 13 requests.

We have had another new volunteer join us from Ipplepen so will hopefully be free to help in January.

The Grief Café and Digital Drop-in were well attended and will continue into 2026.

The Trailblazers enjoyed their Christmas lunch and we received very positive feedback from them about how much they had enjoyed attending the group throughout 2025.

HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY

- a) Conniford Lane has been cleared so there is no standing water.
- b) New bus shelter on the A381 opposite Foredown Road – Clerk to write to DCC to ask for permission to install a new bus shelter.
- c) The next Highways meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 21st January 2026.

To note the date of the next PC meeting: **Tuesday 3rd February 2026 at 7.15pm**

The Parish Clerk

Choir rehearsals resumed in January, a week later than planned thanks to Storm Goretti. We are now on the final countdown to the culmination of our 10th year celebrations: a concert followed by a disco for the choir and all our families, friends and supporters in the KEVICC Ariel Theatre, Totnes TQ9 5JX on Friday 27th March at 7.30 (doors open 6.45).



Tickets for this event are now on sale at www.ticketsource.co.uk The full price will be £10/ £5 for children, which includes entry to the post-concert disco. If you buy before 22nd February you will benefit from our Earlybird offer of 20% off every ticket. So don't delay, get your tickets today!

On the night we will have refreshments on sale and will be running a raffle with some fantastic prizes. All profits from the event will be split between Rowcroft Hospice and Devon Air Ambulance. We would be thrilled if lots of people from our community could join us for an evening of entertainment to celebrate 10 years of Unity in Sound and support these invaluable local charities.

IPPLEPEN BOWLING CLUB WHIST DRIVE

Christmas now seems a long time ago, especially when Easter Eggs appeared in the supermarkets on Boxing Day mixed in with all the sales items, to add to the confusion of what day is it? During the Festive season and breaks from work or school, regular events are on hold, and you are left to work out what day of the week it is !

Having said all that I realise that I did not report on the December Whist Drive, which saw the following results:

Ladies: 1st Elizabeth Church, 2nd Jenny Nixon and equal 3rd were myself, Shirley Northwood, and Anne Mason, which I won on the cut of the cards for choice of prize. The booby prize was awarded to Marion Tuckett.

Gents: 1st Vivien Smith, 2nd Roy Olding and 3rd Phil Davey, with the booby prize being awarded to Jim Brown.

The first Whist Drive of 2026 took place on Thursday 8th January, the day the storm was brewing, and the wet and windy afternoon meant that we were rather low on numbers in attendance. However, those who were able to brave the elements came along and we had a fun afternoon playing cards. The results were:

Ladies: 1st Joan Preston, 2nd Fay Olding and equal 3rd were myself again and Liz Robson, and yet again I won on the cut of the cards for choice of prize! The booby prize was awarded to Cath Spiers.

Gents: 1st Keith White and equal 2nd were Phil Davey and David Northwood, and on winning the cut of the cards David was placed 2nd with Phil being 3rd. The booby prize was awarded to Ken Burridge.

Whist Drives will be held on the second Thursday of every month at the Clubhouse, to which everyone is very welcome. Please therefore make a note in your diary that the **next Whist Drive will be on Thursday 11th February starting at 1pm.**

Shirley Northwood 07711 016495

JB's Quiz

- 1) In the Christmas song 'Frosty The Snowman' hat was used for his nose? An Icicle, piece of coal or a button
- 2) What was the first ever toy on a UK tv advert?
- 3) On a London Monopoly board what are the two things you cannot do if you are sent to jail?
- 4) Llew-Coch is the Welsh name for which English pub?
- 5) What word can go after Needle, Ball and Cash?
- 6) In which borough of London is Savile Row?
- 7) Which company opened it's first outlet in Phoenix Arizona in 1953?
- 8) The Dance of the Cygnets is in which Ballet?
- 9) Kirsch cherry flavoured Brandy is which colour?
- 10) Which English company is set to open it's first Continental branch in Alicante airport?
- 11) The Diamond Blacks are which Country's mens Baseball team?
- 12) Tuesday 17th February is the Chinese New Year of which creature?
- 13) What can be a snack item or a type of hat?
- 14) Which group from the Southwest played at the Princess of Wales Carol service in Westminster Abbey in December 2025?
- 15) What would be made by expert Austrian company Bosendorfer?

Answers on page 43



Wildlife Gardening Talk

IpplePlanet Talk with Elaine Hughes MCIHort
Ipplepen Village Hall Monday 23rd February 7:30pm



Elaine is an RHS Gold Medal award winning Landscape Designer based in Devon with a special interest in creating beautiful spaces that are also sustainable, wildlife friendly and mitigate the impact of climate change. Elaine will share her expertise on how everyone can take simple steps to create food and shelter for wildlife in their gardens, which can in return bring enjoyment and well-being to local residents.

£4 per person, Elaine is kindly donating all proceeds to IpplePlanet. Talk starts 7.30pm. No booking required. Doors open and refreshments available from 7.00pm.

Email ippleplanet@hotmail.com for further information.



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Squirrels. The Squirrels have had a good rest over the holidays and come back with lots of New Year energy and enthusiasm. We started the term working towards the All About Me badge and playing our favourite game of Hibernating Hedgehogs. We have a busy term planned thinking about animals of the night, joining in the Big Garden Bird Watch and holding our very own Winter Olympics. The fun never stops at Squirrels!

Beavers. Yet another fun filled term is planned and January was no exception

Cubs. The run up to Christmas saw some of our senior Cubs teaching games and activities to the others. We had an entertaining evening working on the Entertainer badge with some of the Cubs putting on individual performances. December we attended the Brownie and Scout Carol service. More fun was had with an evening of board and dice games. Christmas craft night was followed by a visit to the pantomime Sleeping Beauty to round off the year.

Scouts. A chilly December evening was spent on the dry ski slopes at Barton Pines. The Scouts threw themselves into it with their usual gusto and all showed an improvement during the evening. 5 of our Friday Scouts took part in the District night hike and bagged themselves a brilliant 3rd place. The end of the month obviously included a Christmas party with crazy fun and games. We welcomed everyone back in January and kicked off the new term with some pig racing and a very intense game of indoor hockey. The rest of January is already mapped out. Burns night will see us celebrating in traditional style and a Newton Abbot fish and chip shop challenge is planned. Some of our Scouts will be taking part in a District archery competition so keep an eye out for results of these much anticipated contests!!

Pioneers. In January we all decided what we would like to do this term. It was agreed we would work towards our artist badge and Lola our Young Leader is organising this towards her Young Leader Award. It is great that we now have someone who can encourage and develop the artistic skills of the youngsters, as Judith has no artistic ability at all. It was great to see several of our Pioneers in the village Pantomime and lots of us went along to watch them. Map reading (Emily) Fun Spanish (Isable) and woggle making also featured in our January programme. We had a session about Australian Scouts, their country and traditions for Australia day with the assistance of Elodie & Tessa, and at the end of January we will have participated in the District Archery Competition.



Hello

Robin and Pam Thomas are going to walk 10 miles between our 5 churches on 14th March 2026.

We would love to have as many people sponsor us as we can.

If you feel that you could sponsor us then please go to the link below:

<https://events.combatstress.org.uk/fundraisers/pamthomas/marchinmarch> for Pam

<https://events.combatstress.org.uk/fundraisers/robinthomas> for Robin

Of course we would love you to join us for the walk and get your own sponsorships. If this is something you would like to do, then do contact either Pam or Robin asap on

rthomas102030@btinternet.com or
mynwypam@gmail.com

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JB's Quiz

- 1) In the Christmas song 'Frosty The Snowman' hat was used for his nose? An Icicle, piece of coal or a button **A button**
- 2) What was the first ever toy on a UK tv advert? **Mr Potato Head**
- 3) On a London Monopoly board what are the two things you cannot do if you are sent to jail? **Pass Go or collect £200**
- 4) Llew-Coch is the Welsh name for which English pub? **Red Lion**
- 5) What word can go after Needle, Ball and Cash? **Point**
- 6) In which borough of London is Savile Row? **Mayfair**
- 7) Which company opened it's first outlet in Phoenix Arizona in 1953? **McDonalds**
- 8) The Dance of the Cygnets is in which Ballet? **Swan Lake**
- 9) Kirsch cherry flavoured Brandy is which colour? **Clear**
- 10) Which English company is set to open it's first Continental branch in Alicante airport? **Wetherspoons**
- 11) The Diamond Blacks are which Country's mens Baseball team? **New Zealand**
- 12) Tuesday 17th February is the Chinese New Year of which creature? **Horse**
- 13) What can be a snack item or a type of hat? **Pork Pie**
- 14) Which group from the Southwest played at the Princess of Wales Carol service in Westminster Abbey in December 2025? **Fishermens Friends**
- 15) What would be made by expert Austrian company Bosendorfer? **Pianos**

Many thanks to John Broadbent for the quiz

OUR MONTHLY WEATHER

DECEMBER

Year	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Highest temp. (°C)	14.0	14.3	13.8	13.6	14.2	12.9
Lowest temp. (°C)	-3.9	-0.7	-5.3	-6.1	-0.9	-3.8
Average max. temp. (°C)	10.1	10.3	11.1	8.1	10.8	9.3
Average min. temp. (°C)	4.1	5.3	6.1	1.7	6.1	3.0
Total rainfall (mm)	229.2	79.4	205.4	201.6	129.2	217.8
Number of dry days	10	13	6	17	11	8

General Comments: This month brought us Storm Bram and, with it, heavy rain (though not as heavy as Princeton!), strong and persistent winds and unseasonably mild temperatures. When Bram left, the winds changed to the east and north-east, temperatures plummeted and it became much drier with some sunny (albeit, cold) days though no snow.

Our maximum temperature for the month was amongst the highest we have noted – there have only been six higher maxima since 1987. The minimum temperature, however, was comparatively low with only eight ‘colder’ minima. There were only four occasions when temperatures were at or below 0C° whilst six or seven would have been expected. This led to an average minimum temperature which was exactly that – ‘average’. The average maximum temperature for the month, though, was high – the tenth highest of the past 39 years. Together these produced an average temperature of 7.1°C, 0.4C° above the mean, and the fifteenth equal warmest in our record – well into the upper half of our record.

Rain was persistent and heavy for the first three weeks of the month but very light from then until the end. Our rainfall for the month was significantly higher than the average of 132.3 mm, up by more than 73%. This was sufficient to bring our annual rainfall to 1236.2 mm, about 12% above the mean. We had eight days with more than 10 mm of rain of which six were above 20 mm and our wettest day had 38.6 mm! December was our wettest month of the year and now becomes, statistically, the second wettest month of a typical year. Only two Decembers since 1987 have been wetter than this – 2000 and 2013. Our ten dry days was well below the long term average of 13 and well into the lowest third in our data.

The barometer ranged widely throughout the month with generally lower pressures at the beginning thanks to Storm Bram but rising sharply with that cold weather at the latter end of the month. The atmospheric pressure peaked at 1034 mb and bottomed out with a low of 991 mb.

The winds were stronger at both ends of the month than in the middle. Our maximum gust speed was just over 32 mph (Near Gale, Force 7) from the south-south-west. The wind direction was almost exclusively westerly to south-westerly for the first three weeks but becoming easterly to north-easterly at the latter end. The wind run was 2650 miles which is well above the mean for December but by no means a record.

Only the brave ventured far for the first three weeks but, if you wrapped up warmly, the Christmas period afforded opportunities to get out and about.

Summary for 2025: What a mixture: mini-heatwaves and deep freezes and eight months with above average rainfall! The wettest month was December with 229.2 mm but there were six months with rainfalls in excess of 100 mm. There was no snow but a couple of sleety-snow showers in January and January gave us our deepest freeze with a minimum temperature of -5°C .

Our total rainfall for the year was 1236.2 mm, just under 12% above our mean of 1104.5 mm. There have been 9 wetter years since 1987. October retains its spot as statistically the wettest month of the Ipplepen year but only just. This year brought 193 dry days against a mean of 185 or 186.

The temperature touched 28.8°C on one occasion during July and we experienced a mini heatwave in that month also. January, February, March and December were cold but the warmth of the Summer months did compensate somewhat. Our average maximum temperature for the year was 15.4°C and has only been exceeded six times since 1987. This contributed to an average temperature (whatever that may mean!) of 11.25°C , just 0.15C° above the norm.

Although we seemed to be besieged by storms, Ipplepen avoided the worst of their wrath with our maximum wind speeds reaching 38 mph in January. The wind run for the year was also low helped by an exceptionally calm July and October.

Here's to a dry, sunny, warm 2026 with just enough rain for a good growing season and not too many storms!

Martin Stentiford



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