

# *Luppitt Packet*

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TEAM  
INVITES YOU TO A MEETING

**THE RESULTS OF THE  
2018 QUESTIONNAIRE  
ARE IN!**

THE RESIDENTS OF LUPPITT HAVE HAD THEIR  
SAY ON HOW PARISH LIFE SHOULD EVOLVE IN  
THE FUTURE

WE WILL PRESENTING THE INDEPENDENTLY  
ANALYSED RESULTS OF 256 QUESTIONNAIRES AT  
A SPECIAL STEERING GROUP MEETING TO BE  
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY at  
7.30PM**

DON'T MISS OUT...COME AND HEAR WHAT YOU,  
THE LUPPITT RESIDENTS, HAVE VOTED FOR

*February 2019*

## USEFUL LUPPITT PHONE NUMBERS

Parish Council: Chairman, John Thorne 01404 891412

m. 07748 780096

Clerk: Rosalind Buxton 01404 861565

Village Hall: Chairman: Brian Pulman 891324

Secretary: Mary Hill 891160

Bookings: Mary Joyce: 890186

Commoners: Secretary : Kevin Lockyer 01404 892836

Luppitt Wives: Mrs Joan Beckett 891308

Rector: Rev John Hayhoe 07864 048575.

PCC secretary: Wendy Watson 891959

Church Administrator: Sara Gordon, 07717 222404

<admin@dunkeswell.org.uk>

Churchwardens: Brian Pulman 891324

Captain of Bellringers: Pearl Pulman 891324

Cricket Club: S Berry 891268

Hartridge Buddhist Monastery: 891251

Websites - <www.luppitt.net>

<www.luppittparishcouncil.co.uk>

Location of defibrillators - Village Hall, EX14 4RT

Loman's Farm, EX 14 4TX (near Red Doors)

**Highway Faults** - online: [http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/transportroads/roads/road\\_maintenance.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/transportroads/roads/road_maintenance.htm) Alternatively, telephone 0845 155 1004 and give the fault information or email <csc.roads@devon.gov.uk>

**Police** - non urgent - **101**. **Police** - urgent : **999**

### OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Dog Warden : 01395 517457

Crimestoppers:: 0800 555111

Blackdown Practice:

Dunkeswell 01823 681720

Blackdown Support Group:

(Hemyock) 01823 681036

Honiton Medical Centre : 548544

Honiton Hospital: 540540

Dev.Air Ambulance: 01392 466666

TRIP: 46529: community transport

C.A.B.: 44213

Honiton Library: 41212

E. Devon District Council:

01395 516551

**To get in touch with your MP -**

**Write:**

**Neil Parish MP**

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

**Telephone:**

0207 219 7172

**email:**

[neil.parish.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:neil.parish.mp@parliament.uk)

**Local Constituency Agent:**

Lucille Baker

01395 233503

[agent@tivertonhonitonconservatives.org.uk](mailto:agent@tivertonhonitonconservatives.org.uk)

# Around the Parish



The snowdrops are up, the birds are singing their little head off - you might almost believe Spring is on the way. And it is only January! We have an adventurous Wren who has discovered that open windows lead to exploration. All round the house and - here's the thing - out the window again. Just leaving little deposits to show where he/she has been! Just the occasional whirring of little wings as he/she exits. Isn't rural life wonderful!

Have a lovely month and keep warm!

Lindsey Dalgety

## **FROM VICKI FORD**

"WHERE" had the pleasure of hosting a performance from the Maesteg & District Welsh Male Voice Choir at Luppitt Church on December 8th. This was an outstanding success raising £1000 for a very worthwhile charity based in Wellington.

## **A SEASONAL QUIZ – an explanation**

Readers may have been puzzled by answer no 21 (page 26 December/ January Packet) for which there was no corresponding question 21.

This question would have been – had not mischievous piskies intervened – "If you write to Father Christmas, North Pole, will you get a reply?" and the answer was "yes, from his elves, just on the Arctic Circle in Rovaniemi, Finland."

Rovaniemi is the home of Father Christmas. You can see his log cabin... ..but when I visited he was away on his summer hols.

DS

# The Luppitt Neighbourhood Plan

## Chairman's Update

Thank you to everyone who completed the 2018 Questionnaire in November and to those that helped with its distribution. We had an excellent response. 264 completed questionnaires were received which have since been analysed by independent research consultants in Exeter. The results will be presented at the next Steering Group meeting which will be held on **Wednesday 6th February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**. This level of response means that we can now confidently continue with the process to produce the final draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan knowing that the document will reflect the current views and concerns of the majority that live in the parish.

So what is the point of a Neighbourhood Plan?

Currently, 2,500 Neighbourhood Plans are being progressed throughout the UK. Just before Christmas, John Howell MP for Henley introduced a Private Members Bill to the House of Commons seeking to reinforce the importance of Neighbourhood Plans. In his introductory comments Mr Howell said:

*"I am introducing this Bill to try to provide reassurance to communities who spend considerable amounts of time and money producing a neighbourhood plan that their work is valued, that it plays an important part in the planning system and the determination of planning applications, and that, together with the local plan produced by the district or borough council, it is a fundamental document".*

For us in Luppitt, the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) designation provides a good level of protection for the environment; any development within the parish is controlled by the planning policies of East Devon District Council; and other organisations such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and Devon County Council also influence the way we live - but is this enough? Such organisations have policies that cover a wide geographic area whereas the government has given neighbourhoods the unprecedented opportunity for greater control that is specific to their parish, village or town.

## The Potential for Unwanted Change

The self sufficient Luppitt community that once relied upon its mixed farms for food and employment is now wholly dependent upon transport for its basic needs - healthcare, leisure, schooling, food and employment. Parish facilities have diminished, and like many other rural areas the population is ageing, there is little or no housing suitable for the young or elderly and there are very few local employment opportunities. The character of the community is also changing as incomers now far outweigh local families. You could argue that Luppitt, like so

many West Country parishes, is no longer a balanced or sustainable community. Overlaying all this, the planning recommendations of the Parish Council are often ignored or overlooked by EDDC, leading to decisions that may not be in the best interests of the parish at large.

Beyond the parish boundaries, pressures are building. 'Brexit' signals the prospect of farming without subsidy. What is the future for our farmland and the unique Luppitt landscape and how will it absorb farming diversification? To meet population growth and social change the government is targeting the construction of thousands of new houses. This is filtering down to the local authorities in Devon, where the population is expected to grow by 67,000 over the next ten years, requiring an estimated 53,000 new houses to meet this demand. In addition Highways England is working towards an A303/A30 expressway to improve fast access to the west. The extent to which Luppitt will be affected by any of this is as yet unclear, but there can be no doubt that the pressure for change is increasing.

## A Community Owned Plan

A Neighbourhood Plan, based very firmly on the wishes of the people who live in the parish, can offer several significant benefits. Firstly, it can provide the community with greater power to **protect** the local landscape, environment and habitats including a new designation, 'Local Green Space'. Avoiding any negative impact upon the natural landscape features of the parish is likely to be fundamental to the success of any future planning application. Secondly, it offers the opportunity to establish new planning policies that are specifically designed for Luppitt, unlike those in the EDDC Local Plan. These would give the Parish Council a much stronger voice to **control unwanted development** and set out guidelines for applicants to follow. Thirdly, a Neighbourhood Plan gives the opportunity to formalise **community proposals and aspirations** that could improve life for everyone in the parish. Examples might include affordable housing, a community orchard, allotments or perhaps a community owned renewable energy scheme and much more. Those who completed the recent Questionnaire will be familiar with these themes.

2019 will see the Luppitt Neighbourhood Plan progress towards a parish referendum. More public consultation will be carried out and there will be plenty of opportunity for Luppitt residents to have their say. The best forums for this are either the monthly Steering Group meetings or the sub-group meetings that cover particular subjects. There is also an email circulation list for those that simply want to keep abreast of progress. Please contact Christine Ryder for further information - 01404 892 880

We hope to see you at the meeting on the 6th February and very much look forward to your further input.

Roger Hicks  
Chairman, Luppitt Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



Finding the best beer in town  
doesn't take a lot of investigating



**OTTER BREWERY**  
[www.otterbrewery.com](http://www.otterbrewery.com)

# **LUPPITT PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Clerk's report of a Meeting of Luppitt Parish Council held at Luppitt Village Hall, on Tuesday, 4 December 2018 at 8 pm**

**Present:** Cllrs John Thorne (Chairman), Tom Nancarrow (Vice-Chairman), David Barlow, Gavin Brake, Brian Pulman, Christine Ryder, Andrew Tucker, David Key (EDDC), Roger Hicks (Chairman of the Steering Group), Rosalind Buxton (clerk) and one member of the public

### **Receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Iain Chubb (EDDC and DCC)

### **Minutes of previous meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 6 November 2018 were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Brake and seconded by Cllr Barlow).

### **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations.

## **PLANNING**

### **Applications (for comment, support or objection)**

None received.

### **18/0506/FUL – Green Mead, Luppitt, Honiton, EX14 4TP – update from Planning East**

The clerk had written to Planning East after the last meeting to ask why approval had been given under Chairman's Delegation rather than being referred to the Development Management Committee, even though the Ward Member and the Parish Council had objected to the application. Planning East had replied to say that this application had been classified as a householder application. Cllr Key explained that this was a fairly new classification that had been introduced about 18 months ago and applied to planning applications submitted to improve or enlarge an existing property. The Parish Council was unaware of this classification. The decision on the planning application had been determined at the Chairman's Delegation meeting which Planning East states is the correct procedure for such applications where the view of the Ward Member is contrary to the officer recommendation. The Parish Council was not satisfied with this explanation. Cllr Brake proposed that the clerk should write to the Chief Executive of EDDC and make a formal complaint about the way this application had been

handled and what steps would be taken by Planning East to prevent this happening again in the future. All were in favour of this proposal.

### **Buddhist Monastery**

Cllr Brake has heard nothing further from the Enforcement Officer who was going to visit the site when he was next in the area. There is a tree down between Whippens and the Monastery. Cllr Tucker was asked to deal with it.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Roger Hicks updated the Parish Council on progress so far. There have been approximately 264 responses to the questionnaire (157 hard copies, 107 online, although some of the online entries may be duplications). Volunteers from the Steering Group had hand-delivered the questionnaires and also collected them. The process had been completed in three weeks. Volunteers had also erected posters throughout the parish and Roger was very grateful for all the volunteer help. The hard copies of the questionnaire now have to be keyed in to SurveyMonkey by an independent organisation who will also carry out the analysis. The questionnaires had been collected up from the volunteers and passed over to the Parish Clerk for safe keeping. Two companies had been identified as suitable for carrying out the independent input and analysis work. One was Catalyst who had been involved with the 2014 questionnaire. The second one was Transform Research Consultancy Ltd based in Exeter. Cllr Nancarrow raised a concern that Catalyst had not been given an opportunity to quote on the final number of questionnaires which was considerably higher than had been anticipated. Although Transform Research have quoted a higher figure (circa £2,000), it was felt that their work was much more professional than that produced by Catalyst who also were doubtful that they would be able to complete the work by the end of January. The costs for the independent analysis will be covered by the grant that the clerk successfully applied for. The Parish Councillors who were involved in the 2014 questionnaire had been unimpressed and disappointed with the work of Catalyst at that time. Cllr Tucker proposed that Transform Research should be asked to carry out the independent analysis. This was seconded by Cllr Barlow with all in favour.

Roger also mentioned that a parish character assessment may be needed. This will identify property characteristics in the parish and give a benchmark against which future planning applications could be judged either by replicating a design or ensuring that any design is in keeping with existing properties.



## HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

Parish Highways programme - update on Items to Report as follows:

Item Reported	Action	Comments from Highways
<b>HIGHWAYS</b>	Report all items to NHO ( <a href="mailto:csc.roads@devon.gov.uk">csc.roads@devon.gov.uk</a> )	
Pothole outside Dolish Farmhouse	W181164455	<b>No safety defects. Marked for patching.</b>
Severe road subsidence from Ringborough Cross to Luppitt Common	W181163261/262/263/264	<b>Marked for patching (2.10.18). No further action.</b>
Uxford Bridge to Crook Cross		<b>Support for Combe Raleigh's complaints has been registered with the NHO.</b>
Pothole above Antelope Cottage towards Beacon	W181175486 (new reference)	<b>Inspected (9.10.18). No comments. Clerk has reported again.</b>

## Parish Maintenance

### Luppitt roads

Cllrs Brake and Thorne remarked on the very good work that had been carried out by Skansa, especially the digger driver who had made an exceptionally good job of clearing out gutters and ditches. The clerk had passed on these comments to the Neighbourhood Highways Officer.

### Lengthsman and Highways Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund

There was a general discussion on the lengthsman project. Cllr Brake proposed that Cllr Tucker should be employed to carry out the lengthsman's work. This was seconded by Cllr Barlow with all in favour. Cllr Brake mentioned a concrete gutter that needed clearing out between Coombeshead and Luppitt Common. Cllrs Pulman, Thorne and Tucker will go round the parish identifying work to be carried out.

### Road signs

Expenditure on the three road signs which the clerk has ordered (£154.80) was agreed.

### **Grit bins**

The clerk had researched the cost of a 200 litre grit bin from several suppliers and was authorised by the Parish Council to purchase two grit bins. Before doing so, the clerk will ascertain whether funding is available from Locality or the Devon Emergency Resilience Fund.

### **Road Warden Agreement**

Under the Road Warden agreement, Devon County Council will provide public liability cover for works done by volunteers. The agreement was signed by Cllr Thorne as Chairman of the Parish Council.

### **FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS**

Cllr Nancarrow had nothing to report.

### **ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

#### **Community Policing Report**

No report had been received.

### **Battle's Over – a Nation's Tribute**

The commemoration event on Hartridge to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War had been very well attended. Cllr Thorne had arranged for the Last Post to be sounded before the bonfire was lit as part of the lighting of beacons nationwide. A firework display followed and hot food was provided throughout the evening. A profit of £77.91 was made. Cllr Brake proposed that this was sent to the Royal British Legion. This was seconded by Cllr Tucker with all in favour. Cllr Tucker was thanked for building such a good bonfire. The clerk will pass on the Parish Council's thanks to the parishioner who organised the firework display and the parishioners who organised the food.

### **Defibrillator pad**

The defibrillator at the Village Hall had been used. The clerk has ordered a replacement pad. The clerk wondered if there would be any interest in running another training course in the New Year. This was thought to be a good idea.

### **Devon Air Ambulance – night landings**

Cllr Key updated the Parish Council on the progress being made by Upottery Parish Council on night landings for Devon Air Ambulance. On behalf of Luppitt Parish Council, the clerk had expressed interest in joining together with Upottery under the Communities Together Fund to contribute towards the cost of setting this up (Minute 7.1, Minute book page number 536, 4 September 2018). Cllr Key said that a contact from Devon Air Ambulance would come and talk to the Parish Council about night landings. The clerk will liaise with the Upottery clerk.

## **Projected Budget**

The clerk is working on the projected budget and will forward to the Parish Councillors in good time for the January meeting. The clerk will make provision for a possible contested election of Parish Councillors in May. Cllr Thorne raised the matter of the clerk's hours and there was a general discussion. Cllr Brake proposed that they should be increased to 10 hours per week starting from 1 January 2019. This was seconded by Cllr Tucker with all in favour. It was agreed that the clerk should also note any additional hours spent on out of the ordinary items such as grant applications. The clerk said she very much enjoyed her work for the Parish Council and thanked the Parish Councillors for this decision.

## **Standing Orders**

The clerk has updated the Standing Orders and will forward these to the Parish Councillors for agreement at the January meeting.

## **Correspondence**

The clerk had received a letter from The Blackdown Practice Surgery and has put their newsletter on the noticeboard in the Village Hall. The Practice Manager has offered to come to a Parish meeting to give an annual update on the surgery. The clerk will follow up as it was felt this might be a popular choice for the Annual Parish Meeting.

## **CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION**

The state of the road at Stonehayes came up for discussion. Cllr Tucker said he recalled that Cllr Chubb had mentioned at an earlier meeting that £16,000 had been earmarked for this stretch of road. Cllr Nancarrow also remembered this. The clerk will follow this up with Cllr Chubb and the Neighbourhood Highways Officer.

## **Gigaclear**

When Mike Cavanagh of Gigaclear met up with Cllrs Nancarrow and Pulman earlier in the year, he made a list of outstanding remedial work. The clerk was asked to follow this up as nothing has been done.

## **Yew tree**

The clerk had received a comment from a parishioner about the yew tree which looked unsightly. Cllr Tucker said that the yew tree had been pollarded correctly.

## **Emergency plan**

Cllr Brake had forwarded to the Parish Councillors an emergency plan that he had drawn up in 2009 when he was Parish Council Chairman. The clerk wondered if this should be reviewed and updated. It was generally felt this was not necessary at the moment but the clerk will keep it for reference.

### **Personal email accounts and GDPR**

The clerk drew the Parish Councillors' attention to a notification she had received from the Town and Parish Council website about Councillors using their personal email accounts for council business. An option is for Parish Councillors to set up a dedicated council email. The Councillors did not feel this was necessary at this stage.

### **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The parishioner wondered if there was any merit in having a grit bin located at Millrise. It was generally felt this wasn't the best location but Cllr Tucker suggested providing some bags of salt if this would be of any use.

There were no further questions and the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

**Date for next meeting to be held in Luppitt Village Hall at 8 pm:**

## **LUPPITT PARISH COUNCIL**

**Clerk's report of a Meeting of Luppitt Parish Council held at Luppitt Village Hall, on Tuesday, 8 January 2019 at 8 pm**

**Present:** Cllrs John Thorne (Chairman), Paul Prettejohn, Brian Pulman, Christine Ryder, Andrew Tucker, David Key (EDDC), Roger Hicks (Chairman of the Steering Group) and Rosalind Buxton (clerk)

### **Receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Tom Nancarrow (Vice-Chairman), David Barlow and Gavin Brake

### **Minutes of previous meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 4 December 2018 were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Pulman and seconded by Cllr Ryder).

### **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations.

### **PLANNING**

#### **Applications (for comment, support or objection)**

None received.

#### **Formal letter of complaint sent to EDDC re planning application 18/0506/ FUL – Green Mead**

Cllr Thorne had received a response from EDDC to the formal letter of complaint which was read out to the meeting. It was felt that it was a most unsatisfactory reply which did not address the concerns raised in the Parish

Council's letter. It was unanimously agreed (proposed by Cllr Pulman, seconded by Cllr Tucker) that another letter should be sent to EDDC forcefully reiterating the Parish Council's objections and concerns regarding the way this planning application was dealt with by EDDC. The clerk will draft out a letter for the Chairman to sign and will circulate to all Parish Councillors.

### **Buddhist Monastery**

The Enforcement Officer has advised the clerk that the log cabins have permission under the Lawful Development Certificate plans and subsequent planning applications. The site cabin is not occupied and is ready to be removed from the site at the earliest opportunity. The Enforcement Officer has advised that planning permission will be required if the site cabin remains.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Roger Hicks gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. There has been a very good response to the questionnaire and 256 completed questionnaires have been analysed by the independent specialists, Transform Research in Exeter. To ensure complete independence from the Steering Group, Transform Research were also responsible for inputting the data from the questionnaires that had been completed by hand. Only 77 questionnaires had been completed in 2014 so this result was a great improvement and should provide a very good cross-section of parish residents.

The MP, John Howell, has introduced a Private Members Bill to the House of Commons that would limit the grounds of appeal against decisions on planning applications consistent with a neighbourhood development plan or local plan.

Roger explained that in addition to preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, several Neighbourhood Planning groups are also producing a Parish Character Assessment document. The assessment would cover the style of existing property in the parish (split into the four hamlets) and property frontages which would include gates, fencing, hedging and screening. This definitive document would provide the Parish Council with invaluable information to refer to when determining future planning applications. A consultant, Fiona Fyffe, who has been engaged by EDDC to complete an assessment for the Blackdown Hills AONB is available to carry out the work. Her costs would be £2,640 including VAT. The VAT could be reclaimed by the Parish Council and the clerk could apply for a grant to cover the balance of £2,200 so there would be no cost to the precept. It was unanimously agreed that a Parish Character Assessment should be carried out and that the clerk should apply for a grant to cover the costs (proposed by Cllr Pulman, seconded by Cllr Ryder). Roger Hicks will contact Fiona Fyffe to see when she could start work on the project so that the clerk can submit the grant application.

## HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

Parish Highways programme - update on Items to Report as follows:

Item Reported	Action	Comments from Highways
<b>HIGHWAYS</b>	Report all items to NHO ( <a href="mailto:csc.roads@devon.gov.uk">csc.roads@devon.gov.uk</a> )	
Pothole outside Dolish Farmhouse	W181164455	<b>No safety defects. Marked for patching.</b>
Severe road subsidence from Ringborough Cross to Luppitt Common	W181163261/262/263/264	<b>Marked for patching (2.10.18). No further action.</b>
Uxford Bridge to Crook Cross		<b>Support for Combe Raleigh's complaints has been registered with the NHO.</b>
Pothole above Antelope Cottage towards Beacon	W181175486 (new reference)	<b>Assessment completed 02.01.19. No comments.</b>

### Parish Maintenance

Cllr Tucker confirmed that he has removed the tree above Whippens that was causing a hazard.

### Planned work

The clerk had received a telephone call from a parishioner reporting a pothole near Red Doors. It had been noticed by other members of the Parish Council and it is one that would not meet the minimum intervention requirements of Highways but could be repaired under the Road Warden scheme. There was a general discussion on potholes in the parish that could be repaired and it was agreed that Cllrs Pulman, Thorne and Tucker would investigate and draw up a list. Cllr Pulman as Road Warden will be in charge of the pothole repairs and it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Tucker should be asked to carry out this work.

### Road Signs

The road signs have been delivered and will be erected.

### Grit Bins

The clerk had written to Cllr Chubb enquiring about funding from the Locality budget for grit bins but had not received a reply. Cllr Key undertook to speak to Cllr Chubb and to pass on any information to the clerk. The clerk had also written to enquire about funding from the Devon Emergency Resilience Fund and had been advised that funding would only be considered if Luppitt had

completed an emergency plan. Cllr Brake had drawn up an emergency plan in 2009 which had been discussed at the Parish Council meeting in December (Minute 7.3, Minute Book Page No 548). It was agreed that the clerk would revise and update that emergency plan and bring back to a future meeting for discussion. If no funding is available, it was unanimously agreed that the clerk should purchase two grit bins (proposed by Cllr Tucker, seconded by Cllr Ryder).

### **Franklins Farm**

Cllr Thorne reported that he had spoken to the residents at Franklins Farm who have been advised by the Enforcement Officer that full planning permission will be needed if the pod is not removed.

## **FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS**

### **P3 Finance Forms**

Information must be returned by 11 February. The clerk will liaise with Cllr Nancarrow.

## **ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

### **Community Policing Report**

Report was received after the meeting:

1 crime reported between 04/11/18 and 09/01/19 – 1 assault – offender known to victim – crime completed.

### **Communities Together Fund (formerly Parishes Together) and Devon Air Ambulance**

After discussion, it was unanimously agreed that Luppitt would be willing to join with Upottery in any application for funding towards a night landing site for Devon Air Ambulance in Upottery (proposed by Cllr Pulman, seconded by Cllr Tucker). Luppitt's contribution would be approximately £400 from the Communities Together fund (not the precept). This money can only be granted for a project between neighbouring parishes for the benefit of the communities of those parishes. It cannot be granted for a project in one parish for the benefit of that parish alone.

### **Sign for defibrillator at Lowmans Farm**

Cllr Prettejohn had kindly supplied a sign to indicate the location of the defibrillator at the Village Hall and the clerk wondered if a similar sign was needed for the defibrillator at Lowmans Farm. It was agreed that the clerk should contact the parishioner at Lowmans Farm for agreement before obtaining a quote for the sign.

### **Projected Budget 2019/20 and Setting of Precept**

The budget for 2019/20 was discussed in detail. It was unanimously agreed (proposed by Cllr Tucker, seconded by Cllr Prettejohn) to accept the projected budget and to set the precept at £11,000 for 2019/20 (no change from 2018/19). Although not present at the meeting, Cllr Brake expressed his

satisfaction with the budget figures and for setting the precept at £11,000.

### **Parish Council Elections**

The clerk will arrange for information regarding the Parish Council elections to appear in the February edition of the Luppitt Packet.

### **Standing Orders**

The updated Standing Orders, which incorporate recent legislation, were discussed in detail and unanimously approved.

### **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION**

#### **Gigaclear**

The clerk had sent a follow-up email to Gigaclear as nothing had been heard from them following a meeting with Cllrs Nancarrow and Tucker on 10 May during which the Parish Council's concerns were raised regarding some of the work that had been carried out. The clerk has been advised by Gigaclear that they have stopped using MGM Utilities to carry out network construction and are currently in negotiations with another supplier to complete the outstanding work. This will also include remedial works.

#### **Drain from School Lane**

Cllr Tucker explained the work that will be carried out to the drain from the existing manhole at the corner of Old School and School Lane. It had previously been agreed that this work should go ahead.

#### **Spring outside Sparrows Croft**

This will be added to Cllr Tucker's list of work to be carried out.

#### **Safety Railings**

The clerk was asked to contact Highways regarding the safety railings that are missing or in a bad state of repair between Stoneacre and Lamberts Lane where the crane got stuck last year. The clerk had reported this to the Neighbourhood Highways Officer in April 2018 and nothing has been done.

#### **Operation London Bridge**

The clerk explained that this is the code name given to national procedures to be followed in the event of the passing of the Queen.

### **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Roger Hicks has kindly offered to organise another litter pick in the spring.

The meeting closed at 10 pm.

**Dates for next meetings to be held in Luppitt Village Hall at 8 pm:**

**Tuesday, 5 February 2019**

**Tuesday, 5 March 2019**



# PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Parish Council elections are held every 4 years and the next election will take place on Thursday, 2 May 2019. Luppitt Parish Council comprises 8 Parish Councillors not all of whom will be standing for re-election so there will be vacancies to be filled.

Luppitt Parish Council meets on the first Tuesday of each month and the meetings last for approximately 2 hours. A variety of issues are discussed at these meetings including responding to planning applications and working to improve the quality of life in the parish.

## **To stand for election on a Parish Council, you must be:**

- at least 18 years old;
- a British citizen, a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union;

## **In addition:**

- for the whole of the 12 months before nomination, you must have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish; or
- work in the parish as your principal or only place of work; or
- live within three miles of the parish boundary.

## **You cannot stand for election if you:**

- are bankrupt and an Order or Interim Restriction Order has been imposed;
- have been convicted in the United Kingdom, within 5 years before the day of the election, of any offence and have had a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of over 3 months without the option of a fine;
- have been convicted or reported guilty of a corrupt or illegal practice by an election court, or have been disqualified from standing for election to a local authority.

Further information will be published on the Parish Council website ([www.luppittparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.luppittparishcouncil.co.uk)) and on the noticeboards as soon as it becomes available.

Please telephone the clerk, Rosalind Buxton, on 01404 861565 who will be happy to answer any questions. Alternatively, any of our Parish Councillors will be willing to speak to you and let you know first-hand what is involved.

## **Honiton Mobile Library at MOUNTSTEPHENS FARM**



	<u>Arrive</u>	<u>Depart</u>
February 6th	12.30	1pm

### **Music and Movement for Children.**

Luppitt Village Hall.      Wednesdays, term time only.

Starts at 9.30 am with approximately 45 minutes of singing and dancing.

Price is only £1.00 per child, to include a drink and a biscuit, also coffee or tea for the adults.

From babies till school age.      Any enquires contact Maria  
01404 891058.

## **Luppitt Wives**

**2019**

**Our February meeting will be a “craft” evening on Thursday 21st February, at 8pm in the Village Hall games room.**

**Please bring a “Prit stick” or similar.**

**Joan**



# Luppitt's Alternative Valentines Night

Saturday 16th February

7.30pm for 8pm start

Luppitt Village Hall

*How well do you know  
your Valentine?*

Hot Supper, Bar and Raffle

Cost: £7.50 per head

*Booking essential!*

Contact Shirley Crabb

By 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. on 01404 891235

## GARDEN JOTTINGS

by D. Street

Nowadays garden centres offer lots of colourful early plants for your spring gardens, spring tubs and window boxes. But despite all their commercial efforts, people still tend to think of snowdrops and crocuses as the earliest flowers of an English spring.

Traditionally English they may seem to be, but neither snowdrops nor crocuses are native to the British Isles, or even to Western Europe. Snowdrops belong further east. Crocuses too are widely distributed further east and south in the Old World. They are found across Southern Europe, North Africa, the Levant and on into central Asia.

Snowdrops fit effortlessly into the unsettled weather we get in this country. Crocuses demand a sunnier drier climate than the South West offers. This does not mean they won't grow here, but many years they are much of failure compared with their brilliant potential in sunnier conditions.

The autumn flowering saffron crocus was grown as a commercial crop further east in Cambridgeshire, where Saffron Walden recalls the trade. The seventeenth century herbalist Nicolas Culpeper left a detailed account of the virtues and vices of this spice (Arabic zafaran), produced from the crocus's stigma and pollen.

Saffron, he says, is endowed with great virtues, for it refreshes the spirits, and is good against fainting fits and palpitations of the heart. It strengthens the stomach, helps digestion, cleanses the lungs and is good in coughs...However its use ought to be moderate and reasonable. For when the dose is too large, it produces heaviness of the head and sleepiness. Some have fallen into an immoderate convulsive laughter, which ended in death.

So don't think of saffron just as a harmless food colouring agent for puddings and rice curries! In fact the supposed exhilaration got from saffron has an old Latin tag too - "that one's been sleeping on a bed of crocuses!" for someone going right over the top.

Crocuses have corms. Snowdrops are bulbs of the amaryllis family. They store food for next year's growth in rudimentary leaves. It is often said the easiest way to propagate them is to split them up when their leaves and flowers are out, and replant them straightaway.

Like crocuses you can have snowdrops in flower from October till spring, if you choose suitable sorts. Different varieties have different shapes and markings on the petals in greens and even yellow. Small these differences may be, they are important details for the committed galanthophile, who may be willing to pay a lot of money for a rare form. Crocuses can also be expensive. A recent catalogue is offering one autumn crocus for £50 a tuber. Crocuses perennate by tubers, stems swollen with food for the next growing season. Most crocuses you see are hybrids bred over many years by careful selection. They will often start growing at a temperature of 50 degrees, too early really for the sunshine they enjoy. They can easily appear in January in mild weather. This year I could see buds coming by Christmas.

Species crocuses can be got from specialist growers. These are wild crocuses often from places much further south than the British Isles. Specialists lists may contain pages and pages of crocuses, all with long Latin botanical names. These are probably best grown under some form of protection, Where rain and gales, so common in this country, do not damage their flowers.

## **J. S. BACH St MATTHEW PASSION**

**Wellington Choral Society**

**Saturday 30 March 2019**

**7.00 pm at St John's Church, Wellington TA21 8QY**

**Generally regarded as one of the gems of classical sacred music, Wellington Choral Society last performed the St Matthew Passion over 65 years ago. This challenging work, with its double choir and double orchestra, promises to be an unforgettable experience.**

**Tickets: £14 (under 18s free) from Odette's Tearoom, 27 High Street, Wellington (01823 667919), online at [www.wellingtonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.wellingtonchoralsociety.org.uk), from choir members or on the door.**



# **Highfield Stores & Post Office**

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Email: [highfieldstores14@gmail.com](mailto:highfieldstores14@gmail.com)

## **YOGA CLASS in Luppitt Village Hall.**

Are you interested in attending a Yoga class in Luppitt Village Hall?

I have contacted an experienced teacher who would be happy to run a class here in Luppitt.

The class would be on a Thursday evening 7.00pm-8.15pm and be suitable for mixed abilities. Approximately £8.50 per session.

Prior to the class starting a minimum number of attendees will be required. So if you are interested or would like more information please contact me either by email

<lucymurray32@yahoo.co.uk> or by telephone 07968 900349.

Please get in touch by 15/02/2019.



**The University of the Third Age**  
**‘Learn, Laugh, Live’**

The Honiton U3A will be meeting on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February when our speaker will be Dr, John Somers – and his talk is entitled **‘Paraffin Lamps & Jigsaw Puzzles’**.

John is one of our Honiton U3A members and he will be telling us his own story of a childhood spent in Wales, in a house without either electricity or many of the conveniences which we now take for granted

Venue: The Beehive Centre, Dowell St., Honiton  
Doors open 1.30pm for a 2pm start

Members Free and Visitors welcome (suggested donation of £2.00)

Further information: 01404 598008

Website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/honiton>

## **LUPPITT TO HONITON**

### **The First Post Bus in England**

In the mid 1960s the Royal Mail decided to operate a network of Post Bus passenger services in some of the more picturesque rural regions of England where there was little or no public transport.

A round route of about 45 miles connecting Honiton with six villages in East Devon was the first service starting in 1967. The intention was to collect and deliver mail in the mornings and only collect mail from post boxes, of which there were about 19, in the afternoons. Passengers could join or leave at any point on the journey. The service was operated by a postman driving a Leyland Daf van with seating for about ten passengers.

The morning service left Honiton at 6.30am and arrived at Luppitt Post Office at 7.10 to deliver the post for the village. The bus then went on to Jacks House (at the time a garage and filling station) and Macham Lane before returning to Luppitt. At 8.40 it left for Dukeswell and Combe Raleigh, arriving back at Honiton Post Office at 9.30.

The afternoon route was longer in both time and distance. It left Honiton at 13.50 and travelled to Combe Raleigh, Wolford Cross, Dukeswell, Dukeswell Abbey, Luppitt Post Office, Jacks House, Smeatharpe, Upottery, Monkton, Beacon, Luppitt, Dukeswell, Wolford Cross, Combe Raleigh, and arrived back in Honiton at 17.15.

The service ran Monday to Friday in the mornings and afternoons, but on Saturdays there was only the morning service.

The post for our village was delivered to Luppitt Post Office, where Mrs Middleton was Post Mistress. Her son, Mr Sidney Middleton, would sort the post, then deliver it on a small blue moped. He was often interested in our post, and when he delivered several greenhouse catalogues he told us that he too was considering buying a greenhouse. Subsequently we bought an aluminium one and Sid bought a timber one. I think his was of western red cedar.

Sid told us that when he came to deliver to our door he had on several occasions found an adder sunbathing on the top step.



At Luppitt Post Office there was a collection box and also a red cast iron telephone kiosk. Mrs Middleton remained in charge for many years, but eventually Sid took over. With the coming of the computer age he decided to give up the post office and devote his time to gardening.

The post bus service seemed popular with visitors, though obviously more so in the summer months. Visitors could get glimpses of the sea at Sidmouth and also across to Exmoor (from Dunkeswell), as well as the beautiful views of our more local scenery. Visitors from the United States might wish to see the memorial to their countrymen in Dunkeswell Church, and Canadians to visit Wolford Chapel, owned by Ontario. All through the year local people, perhaps without their own transport, used the bus for trips to Honiton for shopping and so on. I believe that villagers were friendly to visitors and that the Upton Post Mistress would offer a cup of tea to the postmen and passengers.

Our daughter often used the service. I am sorry to say that I never did. The driver at this time was a very pleasant and friendly woman named Linda.

I remember coming down Hartridge from Smeatharpe one sunny summer day and being surprised to see the post bus pulled off the road half way down. This was not a usual stop. As I came alongside I found a rather glum Linda looking at a very flat tyre. This was a long time before mobile phones, so Linda was stuck. The bus had about six or eight passengers still sitting inside. I asked them to get off the bus and they stood by rather sheepishly while I changed the wheel. I think some of them were Canadians. Linda was very happy to be able to continue her journey. Subsequently I wondered what the Canadians made of this little event. How they had been stuck in a broken down vehicle on a hill miles from anywhere in a remote part of England, etc, etc.

Sadly the service is no more. No longer will visitors wonder at our scenery from the little red post bus. I haven't seen Linda for years. Mrs Middleton and Sid are gone. The old letterbox and phone kiosk have been removed, and now even Luppitt Post Office is just a memory.

DS

# **Luppitt Entertainments Committee**

## **Dates for your Diary 2019**

<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Luppitt's Alternative Valentines Night! 7:30pm for 8pm start 'How well do you know your Valentine?' competition (optional) with hot supper and bar.</b>
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<b>Murder Mystery Night 7:30pm for 8pm start A who dunnit with three-course meal and bar</b>

**More events being planned - watch this space for further details!**

**We are always open to new ideas and welcome any offers of help. Contact Pat Bussey on 892720, or email [pat.bussey27@gmail.com](mailto:pat.bussey27@gmail.com).**



**Follow us on Facebook at Luppitt  
Events**

# Luppitt Litter Pick

To help keep the highways and byways of Luppitt  
clear of litter  
why not join us for a village walk with a purpose

## Saturday 9th March

Meet in the Village Hall car park  
at 10.30am

- Children Welcome
- Collection sacks provided
- Hi-Vis vests and litter pick sticks also provided
- Please bring gloves
- Prizes for the most litter collected!

**Further Information:**  
**Roger Hicks 891579 or Robin Turner 892785**



Congratulations  
To the  
Winners of the  
Bowls Competition



Luppitt Children's Christmas Party and Santa

Luppitt Village Hall presents



You are invited to attend dinner in an old Georgian Country House, owned by a wealthy racehorse trainer.

(D.J.'s optional or dress as a well-known sleuth)  
During your **three-course meal** the cast will enact the plot but one of them will not make it to the main course!!

Who dunnit and why?

Your job is to ensure they get their just deserts!

**Cost: £15 per person**

**Bar available**

**Time: 7:30 for 8:00 pm**

**Date: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019**

Vegetarian option available on request

**Numbers are limited so please book early  
by phoning**

**Steve or Maggie on 891268**

## **‘Alhamdulillah’ – Praise be to God.**

In the 1980s I spent two years on ‘loan service’ with the army of the Sultanate of Oman, literally on loan from the British Army. I was appointed as adjutant and then as a company commander with the Frontier Force, an infantry regiment based in southern Oman near the border with the Yemen. The regiment was comprised largely of Baluchi troops who served in the Omani Army in the same way as Gurkhas do in the British Army. In addition to the Baluchis there were a few British officers like myself, an Indian Army medical officer, some administrative staff from Pakistan, domestic staff from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Between us we spoke a number of languages including Baluchi, Farsi, Brahui, Urdu, Hindi, Tamil, Bengali, Arabic and English. The official language of the Omani Army was Arabic with English used for much of the administration. I worked almost entirely in English but did find that there were some phrases that were used so much in Arabic and Baluchi that I still find myself thinking them, if I do not actually say them. The phrase that I do think of most is ‘alhamdulillah’ which means “Praise be to God” and there are always occasions when it is really appropriate, indeed there are occasions every day.

Last week I heard that some dear friends from New Zealand, who were originally from Uganda, that they had finally got permanent residency and so were no longer living with the fear of having to return to Africa when their work permit ran out. Their sons had no memories of their home country and, like their parents, have a great deal to offer their new country. When I heard the news I immediately said ‘alhamdulillah’ – Praise be to God.

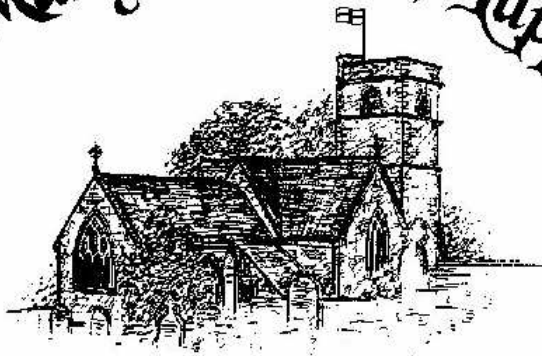
This morning I heard from my daughter that a friend’s new born baby who came into the world with great drama last week was going to absolutely fine despite the traumatic birth. Again it was an occasion to say ‘alhamdulillah’ – Praise be to God.

We don’t need to hear wonderful news to say ‘alhamdulillah’ or to praise God. There is so much that we all have to give thanks for. Waking up every day in the Blackdown Hills is a reason in itself to rejoice. Waking up in a country like ours, despite its many flaws, and there are quite a few of them, is also a reason to give great thanks, despite the traumas of living through Brexit – we are so fortunate to live in a country where there is a rule of law, where democracy is real, where there is food in the supermarket, good education for all, and a health service that is second to none.

Christmas has come and gone, the bulbs are telling us that Spring is coming as they push themselves up from the soil, Easter will be with us before we know it and then summer will be here again. Starting each day remembering our many blessings, and for those without faith remembering those things that make life special, makes it easier to deal with the challenges that we face every day.

Rev John Hayhoe

# St Mary's Church, Luppitt



## Forthcoming Services at St Mary's

Sunday 3 February	9:30 am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion *
Wednesday 6 February	9:00 am Morning Prayer †
Sunday 10 February	11:00 am All Age Worship ‡
Sunday 17 February	11:00 am Common Worship Holy Communion †
Wednesday 20 February	9:00 am Morning Prayer †
Sunday 24 February	11:00 am All Age Worship §
Sunday 3 March	9:30 am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion

\* *Revd Peter Horder*      † *Revd John Hayhoe*      ‡ *Mr John White*  
§ *Ven Christopher Fitcher*      officiating

*Please remember ...*

The church is open every day for private prayer

## Church cleaning and flower rota

2 February	Shirley Crabb & Beryl Hardwick
9 February	Jean Gardiner & Joy Tofts
16 February	Pat Bussey & Pearl Pulman
23 February	Carole Thorne & Jean Hooper
2 March	Wendy Clapp & Mary Hill



## Other Services in the Mission Community

	St Andrew's Broadhembury	St Nicholas' Dunkeswell	St John the Baptist Plymtree	St James the Greater Sheldon	St Mary the Virgin Upottery
Sunday 3 February	11:00 am BCP Holy Communion	8:00 am BCP Holy Communion 9:30 am coffee & croissants in Throgmorton Hall	11:00 am Family Service	9:30 am Family Service	11:00 am Matins
Sunday 10 February	10:00 am Morning Prayer	11:00 am Morning Worship	9:15 am CW Holy Communion	9:30 am Morning Worship	11:00 am CW Holy Communion
Sunday 17 February	9:30 am CW Holy Communion	11:00 am Morning Worship	11:00 am Morning Prayer	9:30 am BCP Holy Communion	11:00 am All Age Worship
Sunday 24 February	10:00 am All age Worship	11:00 am CW Holy Communion	9:15 am CW Holy Communion	9:30 am BCP Holy Communion	11:00 am CW Holy Communion
Sunday 3 March	11:00 am BCP Holy Communion	8:00 am BCP Holy Communion 9:30 am coffee & croissants in Throgmorton Hall	11:00 am Family Service	9:30 am Family Service	11:00 am Matins
Morning Prayer	8:30 am, 1st & 3rd Thursdays	8:30 am, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays	8:30 am, 2nd & 4th Thursdays	8:30 am, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays	9:00 am 2nd & 4th Wednesdays



## NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF NEW CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL for ST MARY'S, LUPPITT

Notice is hereby given that, under the Church Representation Rules, a new Church Electoral Roll must be prepared. All persons who wish to have their names entered on the new Roll, whether their names are entered on the present Roll or not, are requested to apply for enrolment.

Under the Church Representation Rules any lay persons are entitled to have their names entered on the Roll, if they:

are baptised and aged 16 or over;  
have signed a form of application for enrolment;

and either:

are members of the Church of England or of any Church in communion with the Church of England, being resident in the parish or (not being resident in the parish) having habitually attended public worship in the parish during six months prior to the application for enrolment;

or:

are members in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, declaring themselves to be also members of the Church of England and having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

**If you wish to be included on the Electoral Roll of St Mary's Church, Luppitt, do please note the above and act. As it says, you need to re-enrol, even though you may have been listed before. You will find a supply of applications forms in the church porch. Alternatively you may download the form from the Diocese of Exeter website.**

**You may leave your completed form in the vestry, or put it through my letterbox at the Dipsy Doodle, any time before the end of February.**

*Thank you*  
*Wendy Watson PCC Secretary*

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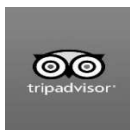
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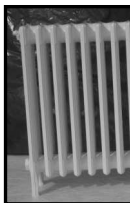
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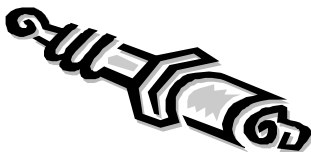
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# Closure of Luppitt Commons to Public Access

Notification of Discretionary “28 Day” Restriction under the CROW Act 2000

Please note that the Commons (Hense Moor, Hartridge, Luppitt Common) are  
**CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS**  
on the following dates;

## **2018**

Thursday 4 October  
Thursday 11 October  
Thursday 18 October  
Thursday 25 October  
Thursday 1 November  
Thursday 8 November  
Thursday 15 November  
Thursday 22 November  
Thursday 29 November  
Thursday 6 December  
Thursday 13 December  
Thursday 20 December  
Thursday 27 December

## **2019**

Thursday 3 January  
Thursday 10 January  
Thursday 17 January  
Thursday 24 January  
Thursday 31 January  
Friday 1 February

**These closures are to permit rough shooting to take place over these Commons**

Further information about open access land can be found on the following Natural England website; [www.naturalengland.org.uk/openaccess](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/openaccess)

Kevin Lockyer

Trustee and Honorary Secretary, Luppitt Commons Trustees Committee



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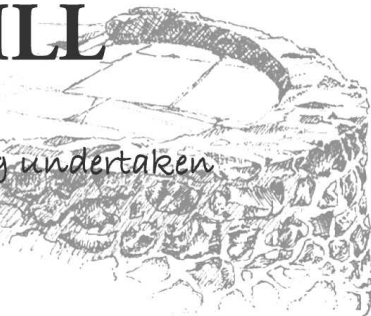
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# Dates for Diary

February 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th	Bowls, Village Hall, 7.30pm.
February 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th	Social Club, Village Hall, 8pm.
February 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd	Friday Market, Village Hall, 11am-12.30pm.
February 5th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 8pm.
February 6th	<b>Neighbourhood Plan Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm.</b>
February 9th	Children's Party, Village Hall, daytime.
February 15th	Honiton YFC Disco, Village Hall, 9pm.
February 16th	Luppitt's Alternative Valentine's Night, Village Hall, 7.30 for 8pm.
February 27th	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting. Village Hall.
March 29th	Quiz Night in aid of Church Funds. More information in next Packet

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Copy for the March issue is invited by February 20th.

The Luppitt Packet is put together by

Lindsey Dalgety, Whites Plot, Luppitt, EX14 4RZ

01404 891560 : email <thepacket@puzzlemuseum.com>

### ADVERTISING RATES

For 10 issues (1 year)

1 Page: £80

1/2 page: £50

Back Cover: £80 if available

1 only 1 page £30

1 only 1/2 page £20

Enquiries about advertising to

John Hayes -

<luppittpacketads@gmail.com>

### EDITORIAL BOARD

David Street

Joan Beckett

Lindsey Dalgety

Christine Ryder—features

John Hayes—treasurer

The views of contributors are not necessarily those of the Editorial Board.

The Editor's decision is final.

The Luppitt Packet is published ten times a year, and is delivered to most households in the Parish of Luppitt.

The Luppitt Packet accepts no liability for: 1) Any claims made by the advertiser; 2) Any errors or omissions in the advertisement as submitted by the advertiser; 3) Any legal action as a result of the advertisement. 4) Any opinion expressed in articles in the Luppitt Packet may be those of the author but not necessarily those of the editorial team.

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