

LUPPITT PACKET



November 2020

THE LUPPITT PACKET

Another month has passed and sadly still no sign of respite from the plague. The Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccine still looks to be the front runner for regulatory approval - maybe before Christmas - although roll out of an immunisation programme is unlikely before the New Year. In the mean time, those eligible, please make sure you get your flu jab.

We have very welcome contributions from Joy Tofts, David and Jacki Street. Also, this month with a focus on wildlife, biodiversity and global warming we have articles from Vanessa Nancarrow, "T O'C" our farming correspondent in Gloucestershire, Dan Smith of Devon Wildlife trust and Nigel Hurst.

As always, we welcome all local views - statements, letters or articles - about farming, Luppitt in times past, the environment, Ash die-back, beavers or anything else you care about. So please stick your heads over the parapet and share your thoughts (brief or long) with the rest of Luppitt.

Nigel Hurst & Claire Stevens

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YOUR VILLAGE HALL

Like everything else the Hall had to close with the advent of Covid-19.

However, the Committee have decided it should now be re-opened on a limited basis in line with the latest Government guidelines for public buildings (and believe me there are plenty of those).

Short Mat Bowls has resumed on a Monday evening at 7:30pm and a Friday Coffee Morning should be possible if someone is prepared to 'drive it'.

Yoga has restarted on Wednesday evenings at 7pm Call Lesley 07791 563674

Forthcoming events, however are more difficult to plan. If you wish to hire the hall, the Committee will consider the suitability of your proposed event with an eye on social distancing etc.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library will call at Mount Stephens on Wednesday 25 November from 10:45am until 11:15am.

The van is now open for you to select books but face coverings must be worn.

If you are not a member of the library you can join on the day.



CHURCH CLEANING



With the resumption of Church services Pearl would like to set up a new Church cleaning and flower rota. The Church can be opened on Wednesday afternoons so that this can take place. If you would like to help please can you call Pearl on 891324 Thank you.

WANTED: CHURCH ORGANIST

We are seeking an organist, or pianist, who is willing to play the organ for our Church services when Pearl is unavailable. The organ is available for practice on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons. For more information please call Pearl on 891324

UPOTTERY PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA

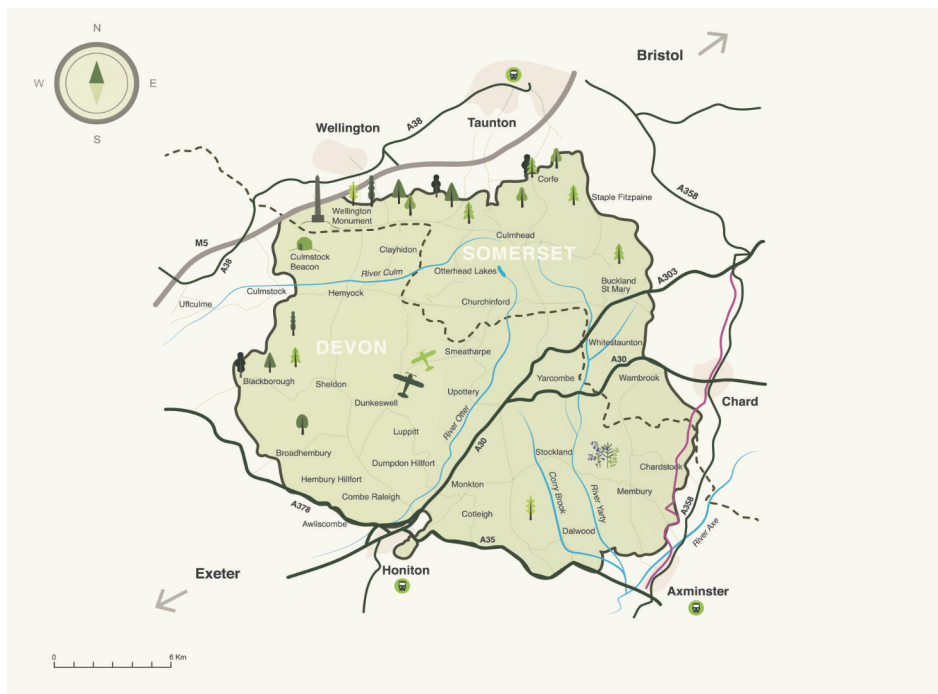


Thank you for your donations to our Bags2School collection, we raised £271 which is being spent on new books for our library!

The Primary School 100 club is being relaunched from November to raise funds for the PTFA. For your subscription of £10 you will get a personal number which will be entered into a draw for the next nine months until the end of the school year. Prize money for the first 3 numbers drawn will be £25, £10, £5. The registration form can be found on the PTFA page on the school website, or you can contact Tracey on 07970 242370. Thank you for your continued support!

MAP OF BLACKDOWN HILLS AONB

During a recent planning application to it became apparent that the EDDC planners did not know that Luppitt lay within the AONB. It has been suggested that publishing a map of the AONB might be helpful in the future both to residents and planners!



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;

5th, 12th, 19th & 26th November 2020

3rd, 10th, 17th 24th & 31st December 2020

7th, 14th, 21st & 28th January 2021

1st February 2021

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

Kevin Lockyer

Trustee and Honorary Secretary, Luppitt Commons Trustees Committee

AN ANGEL FOR A HERO

I'm sending my Angel to watch over you,
I've asked him to comfort and help see you through.
To stand between you and the enemy's gun,
And to keep you from harm 'til the fighting is done.

I'm sending my Angel to give you a light
To brighten your path in the darkest of nights.
To safeguard each footstep from stumbling and falling
And keep your star shining until it be morning.

I'm sending my Angel to walk by your side,
To fill you with courage, with faith and with pride.
Allow him to lead you, let your footsteps respond,
Through the mud and the blood to the green fields beyond.

Joy Tofts

MY FRIEND BETSY

On 16th July, the day after my husband Alan died, I awoke to see a black shape dash across my garden. Later that morning my daughter Karen and I went into the garden and there it was again. "Heavens to Betsy" Karen said, "What's that"? It was a little black Bantam. I recognised it as one from Barbara and John's next door. I told Barbara and she came to take it home. The little bird had other ideas. She had no intention of going home and took off like Roadrunner whenever she was approached. It was decided to leave her be as she was doing no harm and anyway, she was bound to miss her chicken companions and go back home of her own accord when she got hungry. However, we didn't reckon with her having a very determined nature and after a couple of days trying to lure her back to Dove Cottage we all agreed to let her stay at Close Cottage on a B&B basis for the time being. A couple of weeks pass and despite Barbara's every effort to catch her, she had settled down and even laid six eggs (which I suspect was her way of saying "I think I'll stay"). By this time we had christened our little lodger "Betsy".

The neighbours all ask after her health and David Street from next door has even made her a dear little house, and she has settled into it very nicely thank you David!

I never intended to have another pet but I have found such comfort from seeing my uninvited companion at the garden door each morning and much pleasure from her eating out of my hand at meal times. She listens to my moaning with patience and always agrees with me.

They say when you need something it will be provided and true enough Betsy has made me smile and be grateful for this little bird's friendship at a time when I was at my very lowest point. "A Friend Indeed".

Joy Tofts

TIME FOR A CHANGE

In October 1987 we bounced down the lane in a self-drive van, my family and the dog were moving to Luppitt. The hedges dripped with hips and strings of berries and spiders webs. Grass grew reassuringly in the middle of the road and the wipers removed a myriad of dead insects from the windscreen accumulated on our 150 mile journey.

During the first Autumn evenings, staring out of our kitchen window into the blackness I was astounded at the number and variety of beautiful moths. So many bats were flying and owls hooting while each evening unfolded into a world of starry nights. As the months rolled on the wonders continued.

In the spring, glow worms filled the hedge opposite the house, swallows filled the barn and the cuckoos soft call and response could be heard from the woods. In the long tufted grass of the garden crickets were reassuringly noisy and small blue butterflies darted across my path. Each summer around the ponds common lizards basked in the sun. Slow worms and grass snakes had plenty of frogs and toads to eat and bullet head fish were under every stone in the river. Kingfishers and thrushes were not too unusual and the dawn and evening chorus led me to the woods where badgers snuffled around tussocks, and woodcocks flocked on the ground. With patience I got a glimpse of stoats and weasels in the hedge bank. Once a murmuration of several thousand starlings danced down to the fir trees by the back door and returned every night for a month of swarming and dissolving, falling from the sky at night and rising like a runaway train in the morning.



It is difficult to say when the insects and birds, mammals and amphibians started disappearing, possibly so slowly at first, we hardly noticed. The cuckoos had just missed a year or two and we hoped they would turn up again but they never did. The last thrush here was more than ten years ago and the last glow worms likewise. These observations from one little corner of Luppitt chime with the evidence of a bigger disappearance of species.

Several studies point to a 75% decline of bees, butterflies, damselflies and beetles since 1994 and of course without insects our birds starve. Our own dependence on insects is also crucial. 80% of U.K. plants are pollinated by insects that is worth £220 million pounds a year to fruit and vegetable growers.

Insects on the ground and underneath it have an equally important role in creating living soil. Insects and worms feed on organic matter and they create healthy living soil full of mycorrhizal, the good fungi that work with plant roots and which becomes the invisible architect of the soils healthy ecosystem. It seems quite clear that everything in nature is connected to everything else so let's start with helping our soil, insects, birds and plants and in doing so help our ourselves to a future that otherwise hangs in the balance.

Here are some suggestions from The Devon Wildlife Trust. By allowing areas of our gardens and fields to go wild we restore the balance of life to its natural state:

1. Let our grass grow longer and give weeds their corner of the garden and give the trimmer a rest.
2. Encourage scrub, thistles, nettles and rough grassy hummocks for voles and mice.
3. Make more shallows in your pond ,even if it is small ,for beneficial plants like water hawthorn, brooklime, lesser spearwort and purple loosestrife.
4. Leave dead trees and wood piles to provide food and shelter for the many small creatures who are dormant over winter.
5. Let's not disturb the slow worms curled up under brush near the pond or the amphibians sleeping the winter away in the muddy pond's floor.
6. Let's leave all our herbaceous seed heads for the birds and enjoy the structure they give our winter gardens. Finches feeding on thistles is an autumn joy and, although feeding flocks of chaffinches on stubble is only a childhood memory, I do believe it could happen again if we had field margins and left some seeds to fall.
7. By cutting our hedges on top one year and the sides on alternate years we are not only giving insects somewhere to live, but birds and others have the luxury of a berry and seed harvest. Many species of moth and butterfly need two years of hedge growth to breed.
8. Even ash trees should be left unless near a road, a dead tree is home to so many varieties of fungal and insect life.
9. Watching the increased wild life that thrives in unmanaged, untidy areas of the garden and field margins may just be enough for us to glimpse a resurgence in butterflies and birds. Borage, cosmos, evening primrose and Joe Pye weed are all helpful for insects.
10. F1 hybrids and double flowered plants are hopeless for insects. Gardeners need to think about the life cycle of butterflies so leave those caterpillars alone, some for the birds and some for the future.
11. Discard [safely] all pesticides, weedkillers, slug pellets and fertilisers especially nitrates.
12. Make your own compost and you will never have to buy peat again.

The earth's 5th mass extinction was 65 million years ago. In 2020 we are already in the 6th mass extinction, this time one of our own making. To be together and to make a difference together is an exciting challenge, we have a choice to play blindly like the band on the Titanic or to take action; we can find out the facts and be part of the solution. I am optimistic, it is time for a change.

Recommended: 'Wilding' by Isabella Tree; RSPB magazine and TED talks; RHS 'The Secret Garden for Butterflies'.

Vanessa Nancarrow

BEAVERS BOOST BIODIVERSITY

Three months ago, a landmark decision was made about a group of animals in the Otter valley. This river is now home to the first legally sanctioned re-introduction of a nationally extinct mammal in English history.

After years of uncertainty England's first wild breeding population of beavers for 400 years has the permanent right to remain.

This means that the population, of up to 15 family groups, has a secure future. And the beavers have also been granted the freedom to move into neighbouring catchments as the population increases.

August's government announcement came following the successful completion of the Devon Wildlife Trust-led River Otter Beaver Trial which monitored the animals and their impacts for five years.

In February the project published a 'Science and Evidence Report' overseen by independent researchers from the University of Exeter.

Key findings in the report highlighted how:

- Other wildlife – especially fish, insects, birds and water voles - had greatly benefitted from the beavers' presence because of the ways in which beavers enhance wetland habitats.
- The beavers' dam building activities had also helped reduce the risk of flooding to some flood-threatened human settlements.
- Beavers could play a positive role in improving water-quality, with their dams acting as filters which trap soil and other pollutants from surrounding farmland.



Beavers boosting biodiversity

In addition to changing wetlands, beavers' foraging activity also alters the structure of woodland. By coppicing some trees, beaver activity leads to a greater height range of the woodland canopy: this allows more sunlight to reach the forest floor, allowing greater diversity of woodland plants. Beaver impacts also create more standing dead wood, a vital habitat for many insects. These

changes are of great benefit to a range of bird and bat species too.

Beaver damming has created more space for water voles. Surveys around one site on the River Tale between 2017 and 2019 showed water voles using newly rewetted channels holding up to 30cm depth of water. Altogether more than 200

metres of new water-filled channels suitable for water voles had been created in those two years: a real boost for one of Britain's most endangered mammals.

In the lower reaches of the Otter valley, marshy habitats created by the beavers have attracted large numbers of wading birds – including many snipe, duck species (including teal) and herons.

The report highlighted some localised problems for a small number of landowners where beavers were present, but that these had been successfully managed with support and intervention from Devon Wildlife Trust. The work of liaising with local landowners will continue throughout the autumn and winter by the project's Field Officer Jake Chant.

Devon Wildlife Trust believes the River Otter Beaver Trial has demonstrated that beavers truly are nature's engineers, with unrivalled ability to breathe new life into rivers and wetlands; and that their benefits will be felt throughout our countryside, by wildlife and people.

Devon Wildlife Trust's Mark Elliott has led the charity's beaver work since its beginnings – on a securely fenced enclosure in West Devon - in 2010 and has been a regular presence on the River Otter over the last six years. After the government announcement he said:

"Those of us involved with the Trial have seen just how critical beavers are for



restoring more naturally functioning rivers, which will be so important during the ecological and climate emergencies we now face. Naturally functioning rivers support healthy fish populations and protect us from the extremes of weather that can bring both winter flooding and summer water shortages.

"But it's now vital that decisions are made on the national status of beavers to allow their reintroduction into other English river systems. There also needs to be funding to support landowners who wish to allow beavers to restore wetlands on their land, and to assist landowners who do not want beavers affecting their farming practices. This is vital if we are to see beavers welcomed back after such a long absence."

Devon Wildlife Trust – and the rest of the Wildlife Trusts movement – is now calling on the government to publish a national beaver strategy to ensure future beaver re-introductions can repeat the successes on the River Otter. Find out how to add your voice to these calls at www.wildlifetrusts.org/saving-species/beavers

Dan Smith, Devon Wildlife Trust. Photographs courtesy Mike Symes

A GLOUCESTERSHIRE FARMER'S REFLECTIONS ON NATURE

Dear residents of Luppitt,

The editors have asked me to pen some thoughts about my views on the effect of mankind on wildlife as I have experienced it as a farmer over the last 30 years.

It is October 2020 and outside it is wet and windy and the world is beset by the Coronavirus pandemic. I sit in my armchair by a good fire and surrounded by things that I believe to be beautiful grieving at the loss of biodiversity, both worldwide and in my tiny patch of Gloucestershire (very marked in the 28 years I have lived here).

Rachel Carson in 1962 wrote 'Silent Spring' which was about the destruction of wildlife following the unregulated use of pesticides (DDT at that time). She dedicated the book to "Albert Schweitzer who said 'Man has lost the capacity to foresee and to forestall. He will end by destroying the earth.' "Carson herself writes ' - Only within the moment of time represented by the present century has one species - man - acquired significant power to alter the nature of his world.'

The driving force, from the fifties and sixties on to the present day, for intensive farming and the conversion of wild habitat to farmland, has been the need to feed the spiralling world population and, in the West particularly, to feed it with cheap food. In this country expenditure on food as a share of total family income has fallen from 33% to 16% in the last 60 years and to-day, worldwide, it is estimated that a third of all food produced goes to waste. I am in no doubt that the link between biodiversity loss and human population growth is irrefutable.

The human population of the world to-day is around 7.8 billion and forecast to reach between 10 and 11 billion before levelling off and starting to decline around 2100. When I was born in 1937 world population was around 2 billion and when Carson wrote 'Silent Spring' (and our children were born) 3.1 billion.

So just imagine if to-day's pandemic were to kill half of to-day's world population. The remaining half (3.9 billion) would still be almost double the population when I was born and still a quarter larger than when our children were born.

None of these gloomy thoughts provide a solution. Covid-19 will eventually disappear, the sun will shine again and the occasional bird will still sing. Readers, you and your children must help what is left of biodiversity to survive both continued population growth for the next half century and the climate change which human activity appears to have triggered. As I approach the end of my life I believe that biodiversity (which, of course, includes humanity) matters - more than human life by itself be it black, white or of any other colour.

T O'C

QUOTATION FROM LEO TOLSTOY

One of the first conditions of happiness is that the link between
Man and Nature shall not be broken.

Contributed by Heather Plummer

IS GLOBAL WARMING A REALITY?

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would have featured a talk on climate change, but Covid intervened. There remains some public scepticism about the reality of global warming, so the Packet thought that a review of some key questions might be a partial substitute.

Is the earth's climate really getting warmer?

Yes, evidence from a variety of reliable sources* shows that it has warmed slowly since the last ice age, but nearly ten times faster since the industrial revolution (0.85C between 1880-2012). Since 1975, the rate of warming has increased further and the oceans and atmosphere have warmed by nearly 1.0C.

*Sources for Global temperature measurement: UK Met Office ; National Centre for Environmental Information; NASA; Japanese Meteorological Agency

What factors are known to affect global climate temperature?

Greenhouse gases – Carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrogen oxides (NO₂) are greenhouse gases which trap heat and increase global temperatures. They come from natural sources – trees, volcanoes, animals etc - but most come directly or indirectly from human activity (ie burning coal, oil and gas, cement manufacture, deforestation and landscape change). We need a Goldilocks level of CO₂ to keep us warm but not too hot.

Since the start of the Industrial Revolution, more than 2,000 billion metric tons of CO₂ have been added to the atmosphere and levels are now 30% higher than pre-industrial revolution and higher than they have ever been in mankind's existence.

Atmospheric water vapour also acts as a greenhouse gas, but the amount of water which air can carry increases with temperature, so atmospheric water amplifies warming rather than being a primary cause. But, expect more rain!

Volcanic activity, changes in the sun's radiation and the earth's orbit have all been measured but cannot account for changes in global temperature.

Is the warming climate due to human activity or is it part of a natural cycle?

The available evidence all points to the rapidly warming global climate being caused by human activity and rising CO₂ levels rather than by natural climate cycles. Arguments in the media against this conclusion typically come from those in the oil, coal and gas industries and those with financial vested interests. Insurance companies and lawyers are now bringing financial pressure to bear on major greenhouse gas emitters and recently SHELL and EXXON had to admit that their own scientific studies in the 1980's (which were suppressed) showed that continued burning of fossil fuels would cause substantial rises in CO₂ and climate warming.

So why do some deny the reality of climate change?

We have been here before. In 1950, Doll and Hill published the primary evidence that smoking caused lung cancer and was confirmed by numerous international studies. The tobacco industry fought tooth and nail to undermine these findings and as a result, in England, it took over 50 years until 2007 for smoking to be banned in public and work places. Vested interests have always used obfuscation and false arguments to obstruct change.

As always to find the truth, follow the money!

Nigel Hurst

THE “SURVIVOR” – AN ORDINARY TREE AND A SYMBOL OF REGENERATION OF BRITAIN’S FORESTS



Photograph by Aiden MacCormick and reproduced with permission of the Woodland Trust (woodlandtrust.org.uk)

The Tree of the Year competition has been run each autumn since 2014 by the Woodland Trust. Nominated trees are shortlisted by a panel of experts before going to public votes to select a tree of the year for each of the four constituent countries of the United Kingdom. The panel then selects one of these to become Britain's tree of the year and be nominated for the following year's European Tree of the Year. Northern Ireland did not compete this year.

Scotland's Tree of the Year 2020 This year the Scottish public voted for a Rowan in the Borders near Moffat, which locals called “The Survivor”. The tree was nominated by Fi Martynoga a leading supporter of Borders Forest Trust which purchased the Carrifran Wildwood in January 2000.

Fi Martynoga said, "This tree rapidly became a very important symbol of our aspirations to see this valley completely re-wooded and restored to its natural vegetation. In this valley alone we have planted well over 600,000 trees. "The beauty of it is they are now beginning to reproduce themselves. It shows how you can change an environment for the better, preserve and multiply what is around."

Wales' Tree of the Year 2020 is The Chapter House Tree, Margam Park, Port Talbot

England's Tree of the Year 2020 is The Happy Man Tree, Hackney, London

GARDEN JOTTINGS

Rain is pelting down today. Trees are floundering in a gale. Twigs, leaves, branches are flying about, clattering on the roof. It is autumn in name, in act it is winter.

First dry day we get I shall have to go out and clean up. I need to trim down spreading branches, sweep up fallen leaves, take off dead and dying top growth from border perennials. This material is not actually all useless rubbish.

Some border plants from continental climates like China and the USA are used to cold and prefer to be frozen. Many however come from milder regions. They prefer, even need some protection.

The RHS have developed an H number system to tell you how much frost any plant will put up with. They are labelled with H numbers from 1 up to at least 7. H4s will just about live through normal UK winter. H5s and H6s will survive colder, even continental conditions. H1s and 2s need a heated greenhouse. H3s may manage here with some protection.

The simplest form of protection is the material I have just swept up - a heap of fallen leaves, held down somehow against being blown off by wind or pecked off by blackbirds. Wet leaves are heavier and more stable, but less effective against frost. The ground is a heat reservoir and has to be insulated against radiation into space. Perhaps surprisingly fresh fallen snow is a very good insulator. It may be very cold on top, but is full of insulating air lower down. I remember arum lilies in 1979 surviving under several inches of snow, but perishing near a path I had cleared close by.

Special plants that might not survive being frozen can be covered not just with leaves, but also other natural materials such as bundles of the top growth you have just cut down. Straw, compost and paper, especially newspaper you may have around the house can be used. 2 or 3 sheets of large format editions are very effective coverings. Manufactured materials - agricultural fleece and bubble wrap - are easily come by. Unfortunately they are better dry than wet. Plants in pots can be moved up against house walls. These retain some heat.



November may be now upon us with its dark days, its cold and frost. Not everything however is shutting shop for winter lockdown. Our pink Viburnum shrub is full of flowers. There are several species of autumn crocuses. Yesterday I noticed some snowdrops had come up. I can't remember just what sort they are. *Galanthus corcyrensis* and *reginae-olgae* are names that

come to mind. And then the grey leaved *caucasicus* snowdrops will soon be out.

David Street

APPLE CAKE

This is the only apple cake I have managed to cook that has not been too wet or too heavy. Can be eaten hot or cold, with cream or custard. Can be made in a round cake tin, but better as a tray bake.

Ingredients

380 g plain flour	two and a half level teaspoons baking powder
190 g butter	380 g peeled and chopped cooking apples
190 g caster sugar	Milk to mix

Rub butter into flour. Add sugar and baking powder. Alternatively blitz in a food processor. Tip the mixture into a large bowl. Add peeled and chopped apples, and stir to combine. Add just enough milk to make a firm dough. The fruit will release juice, so you don't want the mixture to be too moist. Spread mixture evenly into the tin. Bake for 45 to 50 minutes at 180C/160C fan/gas4.

If you're feeling indulgent eat warm with cream.

Jacki Street



Luppitt calendar now available
Jacky 07432 009301 £6.25 each
Please ask about local deliveries
All profits to Devon Air Ambulance



Covid-19 continues to affect our lives. If you are lonely and would like a friendly chat, are facing hardship, or are in need of any kind, we are here to offer help and support. Please do not hesitate to contact our clergy, John Hayhoe or Jane Penn, the Churchwardens, PCC secretary or Administrator. Contact details may be found inside the back cover.

LEST WE FORGET – REMEMBRANCE 2020

Our service of Remembrance will be held on Sunday 8th November at 10:50am at the War Memorial in the Churchyard. The service will be led by John White and is an outside service so please wrap up warmly.

On 11th November at 11:00am Remembrance Prayers led by John Hayhoe will be held at Uptottery Church.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Sunday 29th November is the first Sunday of Advent and everyone is warmly invited to attend this special service that marks the start of the Christmas season. The first candle of the Advent wreath will be lit. This candle represents hope.

OUR CHURCH SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

1st	09:30 AM	Holy Communion	Revd J Hayhoe
8th	10:50 AM	Remembrance	John White
15th	11:00 AM	Holy Communion	Revd J Hayhoe
29th	09:30 AM	Special service for Advent	Revd J Hayhoe

There is no service at Luppitt on 22nd November, the following services are available nearby.

11:00AM	Dunkeswell: Morning Worship	Revd J Penn
11:00AM	Uptottery: Holy Communion	Revd J Hayhoe

Please remember that face coverings must be worn inside the Church building

John and Jane will continue to provide recorded and live services, via Zoom and dial-in, for everyone within the Mission Community. They would love you to join them:

Week nights at 8:30pm: Night Prayer with Jane via Zoom and dial-in. You can join from 8:15pm onwards for a chance to chat beforehand

Sundays at 5pm: Pre-recorded Sunday Worship with John via Zoom or dial-in. Also available on YouTube.

Thursday 5th, 19th 26th November at 7pm: "Faith in the time of Covid-19" Bible study with John via Zoom or dial-in. Each session stands alone and will last around 45 minutes.

For dial-in telephone details or more information please contact Sara on 01404 891140 or visit www.dunkeswell.org.uk and find us on Facebook @sixworshiptogether

THE RECTOR'S LETTER

As I begin to write my letter for the Parish Magazines of the six parishes of the Dunkeswell Mission Community I am still waiting to hear the announcement from the Prime Minister about the three tier Lockdown. We are all tired of the Pandemic and, despite being tired, are still trying as best we can to keep safe – we are also fearful of what might happen to those we love in our own communities and also to those we love who we can't be with at the moment.

At this time of year normally we have already gathered to celebrate the harvest, are planning bonfire parties, and are looking forward to gathering around our local cenotaph for Remembrance Sunday, to singing carols and to Christmas parties as Christmas approaches. Though the parishes are trying to plan what they can, everyone is becoming anxious that these various important events will not take place in the way we love them to, or even if some of them will take place at all. Some of the other events that we look forward to have already been cancelled or are in jeopardy – the Christmas market in Exeter is still cautiously being planned and I hope that the excitement of the Christmas lights being

turned on will still be possible in Honiton but I am not holding my breath!

This is going to be an autumn and winter like none other that we have experienced. I watch the news every day and hear the distraught voices of people in the North and Midlands as more restrictions are introduced. Our challenge is keeping ourselves safe – my family is only two degrees away from the hotspot at Exeter University as my youngest son goes to college in Exeter and sits beside the son of two university staff – it is very easy to forget quite how close the risk is and how many people we meet who are vulnerable.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH

YOUR CHANCE TO 'JUMP FOR FREE' AND RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR CHURCH

We have teamed up with Skydive Buzz at Dunkeswell airfield to offer you the opportunity to make a tandem skydive and raise funds for planned maintenance work of our beautiful and historic Church building.

Open to everyone 16 years and older whether living in the Parish or further afield.

For more information search Skydive on dunkeswell.org.uk or contact Sara on 07717 222404

If skydiving is not for you but you still wish to support the maintenance of our beautiful church, then please contact Sara for details on how to make a donation anyway.

Our communities have been quite amazing demonstrating love in so many ways through the late spring and summer but it is going to be more challenging when we can't chat at a social distance from the garden gate because it is cold and wet, when the important social contact we all need is so much harder to find. We are a relational species and Christianity is a relational faith. I do pray that you will all keep safe and that you will find ways to keep in touch with everyone around you – they will need it and so will you!

John Hayhoe johnhayhoe@me.com

CLERK'S REPORT OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF LUPPITT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2020 AT 8PM

Present: Cllrs John Thorne (Chairman), Tom Nancarrow (Vice-Chairman), Beth Hooper, Paul Prettejohn, Brian Pulman, Andrew Tucker, Michele Turner, David Key and Colin Brown (EDDC), Rosalind Buxton (Parish Clerk)

Receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Christine Ryder and Iain Chubb (EDDC and DCC). Cllr Thorne welcomed Cllr Prettejohn to his first virtual meeting.

Minutes of previous meeting - The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 1 September 2020, were unanimously agreed and signed* as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Hooper and seconded by Cllr Turner).

Declaration of Interest - There were no declarations.

PLANNING Applications (for comment, support or objection)

20/1125/FUL – Higher Moorlands Farm, Luppitt, EX14 4SY – erection of agricultural barn
Cllrs Thorne and Turner had visited the property. The Parish Council commented to EDDC as follows:

The Parish Council has no objection to the erection of the agricultural barn. However, the Parish Council feels that the proposed location is a considerable way from the house in a green field site which the emerging Neighbourhood Plan seeks to protect. The Parish Council recognises that the existing barn needs to be demolished as it would be too near to the proposed house extension but believes that the new barn should be positioned within the curtilage, on the existing brown field site.

20/1088/FUL – Old Spurtham Farm, New Road, Upottery – erection of hay storage barn
Cllr Key had nothing to report.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman of the Steering Group, Roger Hicks, updated the Parish Council on progress. The Neighbourhood Plan is now in its final draft form and Roger said he has had helpful input from the EDDC Neighbourhood Planning Officer. There are 37 new planning policies for Luppitt which the Parish Council can refer to when considering future planning applications. There are also 17 Community Actions to be carried out in the future. Key to carrying out these actions will be the appointment by the Parish Council of a group of parishioners to form the Community Project Action Group. This group will work with the Parish Council to implement the Community Actions. The Neighbourhood Plan will ensure that Luppitt's character and landscape will be better protected in the future. It was agreed the Plan should be broken down into sections for consideration by the Parish Council. The Steering Group committee members will meet to discuss the best way of doing this. It was felt that it would be beneficial to have separate Parish Council meetings dedicated to the consideration of the Plan. Four meetings would probably be sufficient. The clerk will liaise with Roger and Cllr Turner. Cllr Thorne thanked Roger for the many hours of hard work that he has put in to bring the Plan to its present stage.

HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

Parish Highways programme - update on Items to Report:

- Loose kerbstones at Millrise – Cllr Tucker advised that there are about 15 loose kerbstones that need urgent attention. Cllr Key will follow up with his contact at EDDC.
- Clerk will re-report issues in School Lane, Higher Wick and Fortfield houses, severe edge of road deterioration from Maple Cross to Pound Farm.

Road closures

29 Oct. to 13 November road from Luppitt Common to Dolish Farmhouse – drainage work

14-18 December road from Dolish Farmhouse to Barnfield Farm (Church Hill) – remedial work by Gigaclear

Clerk to clarify location with Highways as Barnfield Farm is not on Church Hill

14-18 December road from Calhayes Farm to Corner House – remedial work by Gigaclear

Clerk to request that these roads are not closed at the same time as one route serves as a diversionary route when the other one is closed.

Road closure for work by BT Openreach – 4 January 2021 for 10 days

The notification from the utility contractor carrying out work for BT Openreach was noted.

School Lane - Regarding Cllr Tucker's work at School Lane, it has been noticed that 4 or 5 retaining slabs have been broken. Cllr Thorne will investigate.

Overhanging tree Cllr Pulman has spoken to the landowner of the field near Snooks Farm who has undertaken to pull the overhanging tree into the field.

Parish Maintenance

The Mill - There was a lengthy discussion about the situation at The Mill. Cllr Thorne suggested some additional work but it was agreed to stick with the original plan to get the water off the road. Cllrs Thorne and Pulman will speak to the resident about making an equal contribution to the cost of the work.

Grass Cutting - The contact that the Neighbourhood Highways Officer had given the clerk was on holiday but the clerk will follow up on their return.

Sandbag requirements - Cllr Tucker confirmed that there are enough sandbags in stock.

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

Gateposts at Hillend - Cllr Nancarrow reported that the existing wooden gate will be re-hung with new latching and hanging posts added.

ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Parish Council representative for Village Hall Committee - Cllr Ryder has agreed to continue as the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

External audit - The clerk confirmed that the external audit has been completed without any issues.

Half-yearly performance figures against projected budget - The figures provided by the clerk were noted and accepted.

Parish Council meetings - The clerk reported that the advice from Government and the National Association of Local Councils is to continue with virtual or remote meetings until further notice. To hold face-to-face meetings would not comply with the rule of six.

Correspondence - There was no correspondence.

CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

- Cllr Turner reported some fly-tipping in the parish. A resident had provided details on the Luppitt WhatsApp page on how to register to submit fly-tipping reports - clearwaste.com.
- Cllr Tucker will confirm at the next meeting whether or not the Commoners want to retain the reserved page on the Parish Council website.
- The clerk asked the Parish Councillors to encourage parishioners who are interested to join the virtual Parish Council meetings. Details are on the website.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - There were no questions and the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Dates for next virtual meetings to be held at 8 pm:

Tuesday, 3 November 2020 Tuesday, 1 December 2020

***Minutes will be signed when Parish Council meetings resume**

DIRECTORY

Parish Council	www.luppittparishcouncil.co.uk	
Chairman	John Thorne	01404 891412 07748 780096
Clerk	Rosalind Buxton	01404 861565 07944 625025
Village Hall		
Chair	Stephen Smith	01404 892839
Secretary	Mary Hill	01404 891160
Bookings	Jean Hooper	01404 892969
Commoners' Secretary	Kevin Lockyer	07827 309229
Luppitt Neighbourhood Plan	www.luppittneighbourhood.org.uk	
Chair	Roger Hicks	01404 891579
Consultation	Christine Ryder	01404 892880
Luppitt Wives	Mrs Joan Beckett	01404 891308
Rector	Rev John Hayhoe johnhayhoe@me.com	01404 515083 07864 048575
Associate Priest	Jane Penn	01404 841523
PCC Secretary	Sue Lauzier-Piechowiak	01404 891924
Church Administrator	Sara Gordon admin@dunkeswell.org.uk	07717 222404
Church Wardens	Brian Pulman Wendy Watson	01404 891324 01404 891959
Luppitt Entertainments Cttee	Pat Bussey	01404 892720
Captain of Bellringers	Pearl Pulman	01404 891324
Cricket Club	Steve Berry	01404 891268
Hartridge Buddhist Monastery		01404 891251
Surgeries	Blackdown Dunkeswell Honiton Medical Centre Honiton Minor Injuries Unit	01823 681720 01404 548544 01404 540540
Devon Air Ambulance		01392 466666
East Devon District Council		01404 515616
TRIP (community transport)		01404 46529
Citizens Advice Bureau		0344 411 1444

Location of defibrillators

Village Hall EX14 4RT

Loman's Farm, EX14 4TX (near Red Doors)