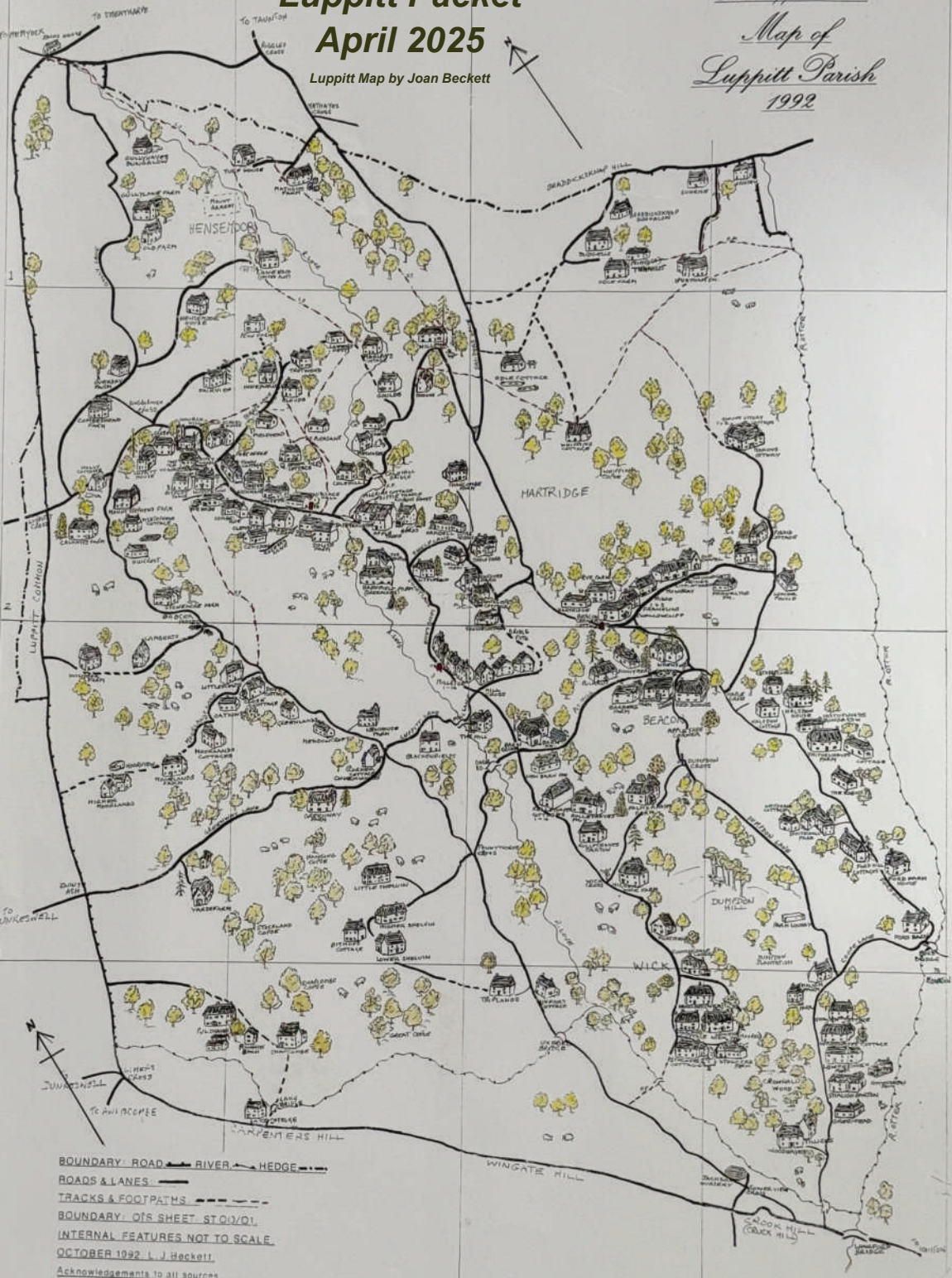


Luppitt Packet

April 2025

Luppitt Map by Joan Beckett

The Luppitt Packet
Map of
Luppitt Parish
 1992



Sunday Stroll



Sunday 4th May
Starting at 2pm from
Luppitt Village Hall

Tea at the Hall afterwards. Non-walkers are welcome to join us for tea from 4pm! Cost: £5

Suitable attire and footwear required. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Dogs must be kept under control.



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THE LUPPITT PACKET

Thank goodness Spring is here and how beautiful the Parish looks with gardens and hedgerows full of daffodils and primroses. This year's Spring Equinox (March 20th) was apparently the warmest for several decades so maybe that signals a lovely warm Spring. The wild birds are incredibly busy building their nests – although the wild lady pheasants who live in our fields throughout the year seem non too keen on the attentions of the hopeful males despite the wonderful displays they are putting on.



April is a time when everyone feels in higher spirits – and the Packet team are certainly in that mood. As you read, just remember what month it is!

We do have some sombre notes this month with the passing of three Luppitt ladies, perhaps the best known being Joan Beckett who was heavily involved in the community and gave so much of her time and energy to the Parish. Our front cover is a reproduction of the map of Luppitt which Joan produced and which is still a much used reference document.

We have Easter at the end of the month, and so this issue includes articles on how our native hares play a historical role at this time and a yummy recipe for a traditional simnel cake.

We finish with news of the amazing Concert held at St Marys on 21st March. What a night – the music was both technically brilliant and very moving. Thanks to the acoustics in the Church everyone right to the back pews enjoyed crystal clear gorgeous sounds. The lighting presented the Church in a way probably never seen before. Over 100 people attended and after costs, initial figures show that the event raised over £1500 for the Church Restoration Fund. Something tells us there might be calls for it to be repeated. Lots of photos of the event will shortly be available on the Luppitt Packet website. Do take a look – if you were there, it will be a great memory. If you weren't it will make you want to go to the next one!

Christine Ryder, Michele Turner and the Luppitt Packet team

COPY DATE FOR THE LUPPITT PACKET MAY 2025 ISSUE IS

19th April 2025 to editors@luppittpacket.co.uk

Editors & Adverts	Christine Ryder & Michele Turner	
Treasurer	John Hayes	01404 890114
Distribution	Mandy Riley	07817517425

DISCLAIMER

The Editorial Team take no responsibility for the information given or views expressed in the Luppitt Packet and will not be liable for any direct, indirect or consequential loss arising from the use of the information and advertisements contained in this publication. Although every endeavour is made to meet the requirements of advertisers, no responsibility can be accepted for failure to insert an advertisement upon any specified date. The Editorial Team reserve the right to refuse or amend any advertisement without assigning any reason.

Luppitt Entertainments Committee Events

Coming up soon:

Friday 4th April: Easter Bingo

Time: 7:00 for 7:30pm

Tuesday 22nd April: Kids Movies

Time: 10:15 for 10:30am

Friday 25th April: Ladies Film Night

Time: 7:30pm

Events to look forward to later:

Sunday 4th May: Sunday Stroll

followed by Tea in the Village Hall

Sunday 1st June: Family Footpath Fun

An interactive walk for all, especially families, finishing with refreshments at the village hall.

Saturday 9th August: Flower Show and Fete

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Short Mat Bowls

7.30pm Thursdays

Friday/Saturday Coffee / Market

11am until 1pm

Saturday April 12th - 15:00 - 17:00

'The Ecosystem Engineer'

The Luppitt Landscape Partnership would like to invite you to a free, family friendly afternoon screening of a documentary by the Beaver Trust at the Luppitt Village Hall. For a few years now Luppitt and the river Luv has become home to this large big toothed rodent, come and find out more about its potential role here and explore with us the opportunities beavers create and the unique challenges they introduce in our modern landscapes. There will be time after the screening for a Q and A, a representative from the Beaver Trust will hopefully join us to answer any questions. There will be some light refreshments and a 'all things beaver' crafty table for the kids. See you there!

THE LUPPITT PACKET IS ALSO ONLINE

Additional information and photographs can be found at www.luppittpacket.co.uk All archive PDF copies of The Packet dating from 2010 to the current edition can be found on www.luppitt.net (hosted by Peter Sage) which also contains a wealth of information about Luppitt – its history, people, photos, family trees etc.

DIRECTORY

Parish Council	www.luppittparish.gov.uk	
Chair	Michele Turner	07525 796197
Vice Chair	Martin Summers	01404 46845
		07748 780096
Clerk	Rosalind Buxton	01404 861565
		07944 625025
Village Hall		
Secretary	Lucy Murray	07968 900349
Bookings	Jean Hooper	01404 892969
Luppitt Commons	Kate Jarman	
	luppittcommons@gmail.com	
Parish Notices WhatsApp	Lucy Murray	07968 900349
Priest-in-charge	Nigel Candalent	01404 891306
	revnigel@dunkeswell.org.uk	
Associate Priest	Jane Penn	01404 841523
	revjane@dunkeswell.org.uk	
Mission Community Admin	Sara Bevan	07717 222404
	sara@dunkeswell.org.uk	
PCC Secretary	Winter Newlands	07903 032890
Luppitt Entertainments Chair	Phil Smith	07984 735663
Luppitt Entertainments Sec	Pat Bussey	01404 892720
Captain of Bellringers	Lorna Rocket	07894 072133
	Lornarockett@hotmail.com	
Hartridge Buddhist Monastery		01404 891251
Surgeries	Blackdown Dunkeswell	01823 681720
	Honiton Medical Centre	01404 548544
	Honiton Minor Injuries Unit	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

Lowmans Farm, EX14 4TX (near Red Doors)

CHRIS CHARLTON

Chris Charlton who died recently was a familiar sight on the local lanes in his truck, often on the way to inspect his Ryeland sheep – a breed renowned for their excellent meat and fine wool for hand spinning.

He also bred Otterhounds and goats.

He was heavily involved with Honiton Show, and East Devon Beekeepers as well as being Chairman of the Luppitt Commoners.

Prior to moving to Luppitt he was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Corps of Royal Engineers. After retiring he and his wife, Jeanne decided they would move to Cornwall, but they both had elderly mothers and picked Luppitt as a temporary stop gap. A stop gap that lasted over forty years!

Penny Nicholls and The Luppitt Players

Penny, along with Naomi Lott had the idea of starting an amateur dramatic group in Luppitt, but until a panto group was suggested it didn't take off. A meeting in the summer of 2002 was well attended and Snow White was decided on. A Cheese and Wine Evening at Mountstephens Farm was held to raise money to get started. With a cast of 22 including the Reverend Nick Wall, as the wicked queen the panto was put on for three nights at the end of January 2003, with help from lots of people backstage too. The following year it was Cinderella with Penny playing Wrekit, the builder and Patrick McCaig producing. In 2006 Penny, along with Joan Beckett produced Dick Whittington. Husband Nick was a great support, building a stage extension, props etc, also taking part in each production. He could never remember his lines, so they were written on anything he could find, even other players backs or his arms! Steve Berry then took over production in 2008, Penny being prompt for the next two productions. Nick still taking part until they moved to Honiton.

Luppitt has Penny to thank for lots of fun and laughter!

Jean Gardiner



St. Mary's March service schedule is listed below. For a full list of services across our Mission Community please visit www.dunkeswell.org.uk

A huge thank you to Roger, Mo and their team of helpers for all their work in staging the fundraising concert in aid of the Church Building Fund.

APRIL SERVICES

6th	9:30am	Holy Communion	Revd Jane Penn
7th	10:30am	Messy Church	Luppitt Village Hall
13th	11:00am	Palm Sunday Service	Revd Jane Penn
18th	12:30pm	Hartridge Crosses	Revd Nigel Candelent
20th	9:30am	Easter Communion	Revd Nigel Candelent
27th	11:00am	Morning Worship	Lay Led

DMC Maundy Thursday service at St. Nicholas, Dunkeswell

17th	7:00pm	Holy Communion	Revd Nigel Candelent
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St. Mary's Church

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Monday 12th May 2025 at 7pm

Venue to be advised



Church Cleaning and Flower Rota 2025

5 April	Sue Piechowiak
12 April	Jean Gardiner and Joy Tofts
19 April	Pat Bussey
	<i>Easter Decorations - all</i>
26 April	Mary Joyce, Pearl Pulman & Mary Hill
3 May	Sue Piechowiak
10 May	Jean Gardiner and Joy Tofts
17 May	Pat Bussey
24 May	Mary Joyce & Pearl Pulman
31 May	Mary Hill

A HARE AT EASTER

Hares have long been associated with mythology. The Chinese believed them to be symbols of resurrection, they refer to 'the hare in the moon' rather than 'the man in the moon,' this hare was said to pound the herb of immortality; there is a similar legend in India where the hare featured as a sacrificial offering for Brahman. In Egypt, the hare was used as a hieroglyph which denoted existence.



In Saxon times the Goddess Oestara or Eostre ruled over the spring and dawn – she gave her name to oestrogen. Her sacred animal was the hare which was also the symbol of the moon. The gestation period of a hare is 28 days, the same as the moon's monthly cycle. The moon hare was said to have laid the Cosmic Egg from which all life emerged. It is from Eostre that we get the festival of Easter which celebrated the coming of spring, yet another pagan festival that was altered by the Christians. In this case the hare became the cuddlier bunny and the moon an egg!

There are bosses of three hares chasing one another on the timbers of church roofs all over Devon, very often next to a Green Man, another pagan symbol like our own in Luppitt. A relatively modern myth surrounds this. In the fifteenth century tin mining was very prosperous on Dartmoor. The assay office of the Vitifer mine used a symbol of three hares chasing one another each hare sharing an ear with the next so that only three ears are visible, this became known as the 'Tinnens Rabbits.' The tinnens used much of their wealth to refurbish churches on Dartmoor, and for a long time it was believed that they used their symbol inside these churches. There are fine examples Widecombe-in-the-Moor, South Tawton, Samford Courtney, Chagford and Tavistock to name but a few, but there are also bosses in other parts of the county.

The three hares are depicted in glass at Long Melford, a ceiling in Scarborough, carved stone in St David's Cathedral, medieval tiles at Chester Cathedral and there are examples across Europe and Asia.

In fact, the symbol is of ancient origin and was even found on 6th-7th century carvings in Chinese caves. The three hares' symbol has been used by Christians, Jews, Buddhists, and Muslims. One theory is that it spread around the world via the Silk Road.

And its meaning? Well, nobody really knows, but hares have always been looked upon as mystical creatures, hermaphrodites capable of reproducing without loss of virginity, and this may be a link to the Virgin Mary.

Happy Easter. Enjoy your chocolate hare and moon!

Carbonatite found in the Love Valley

The Parish Council has been sent correspondence from Devon County Council following a report they have received from the British Geological Survey (BGS). As some of you may know, BGS geologists have been conducting drillhole surveys in the Exe, Otter and Love valleys as part of a wider investigation looking for potential Rare Earth Element (REE) minerals.

The survey has found carbonatite, a rare earth mineral found in volcanic rocks. Around 284 million years ago the area around Dartmoor was a series of volcanoes. They left small intrusions of slow cooled lava in sills and dikes, known by geologists and miners locally as the Exeter Volcanic Trap. This material has been quarried as building stone for hundreds of years, but only recently was there any evidence of minerals of greater importance.



The BGS is now asking for permission to carry out more detailed surveys. These will include stripping the topsoil from a section of land of approximately 20,000 square metres just south of Luppitt. If they find sills and dikes large enough to contain commercially viable carbonatite, then extraction would be via open cast mining, with a possible processing mine and tips nearby. Unfortunately, the present situation in Ukraine and the move towards self-sufficiency in a lot of areas seems to have a knock-on effect for us.

Obviously, this is deeply concerning because it could require government to redraw the boundaries of the Blackdown Hills National Landscape and may also lead to open cast mining along the valley. It also goes against a main aim of the Luppitt Neighbourhood Plan (5.1 "Protection of the natural environment and the landscape is probably the single most important objective when considering proposals for development and land use change in the parish") and we must be prepared to fight any moves that run contrary to that aim. The BGS report is not specific about what rare earth elements are present, but typically carbonatites contain lanthanum (La), cerium (Ce), apatite (Ap), praseodymium (Pr) and neodymium (Nd). These elements are used in a number of high-tech applications such as batteries, mobile phones and wind turbines.

The Parish council is currently trying to get more information about the proposals and will update everyone as soon as this happens.

Marguerite Wall

Having been asked to do a bit on Grete for The Packet, I resolved to be very brief. Sadly, as those who long ago suffered my sermons well remember, my idea of 'brief' is somewhat different from the norm. So, if you go to sleep before the end of this, I shall in no way be offended, since I was often used to the sounds of snores and heavy breathing - from people asleep, I mean!

Grete, a Hastings girl as was her sister Jay, who also became a vicar's wife, trained as a music teacher in Cockfosters, N London and was married in 1969 during the times of the Beatles, the Stones, Cliff Richard miniskirts etc. To keep in fashion, she developed tremendous skills as a dressmaker, shirt maker and so on and just finding time to teach lots of little darlings in Enfield, Moreden Westerham, Kent, and later in Bristol. She often referred to me as her 'kept man' but then as a curate's wife she became the 'kept woman' producing eventually a pair of fabulous twin boys (now both ugly men of 50) and exchanged teaching into the slavery of the three blokes in her life.

In the parish, and at several camps, house parties, holiday clubs and so on, her organisation, knowledge, cooking and gentle confidential wisdom were most highly valued; in fact with her countless gifts and skills as well as her long suffering sense of humour she always saw ways in which she could serve her Lord and Saviour.

Upon moving to Devon in 1978 - more 'guidance' here, she launched herself with gusto, not just as the Rector/Vicar's wife, but as a key member of the W.I., the Mothers Union, an occasional organist, flower arranger, bell-ringer, Sunday School teacher, voluntary music teacher at Broadhembury, and then, what joy, as mother of a third boy – now rising 46 years old. She fully participated in school life at Broadhembury, and later at Uffculme, with cubs ad scouts, letter boxing on Dartmoor, and Ten Tors support.

Grete, in her 'spare time' enjoyed 28 years as an Army Padre's wife (T.A.), became an Advanced Driver and lest there be a wasted minute of the day, she plotted almost every hour by making lists of lists and lists of 'things to do' or people to see or write to besides cataloguing her vast collection of stamps. Occasionally on a day off, she would take the tiller of the sailing boat or handle a sheet, but knots and rope-work were just too much of a good thing: so mooring lines always had to be done under supervision!

With countless people here in Luppitt, as well as Sheldon, Dunkeswell, and Upottery we shown much love, kindness, warmth and blessing, Grete would always view our life here as yet another example of the grace lavished upon her and hers by God, She would often say "What? All this and Heaven too?!"

Well then came retirement which saw her driving the motorhome and navigating all over Europe and the U.K., riding pillion on the motorbike,

swimming in the warm Mediterranean water, visiting wonderful places and learning bits of European history. Spending time on crosswords, sudoku, knitting and simply delighting in the grandchildren and their lives.

So now, the Saviour's embrace fully holds her in glory as she even more fully realises His love for her. From her earliest Christian days and indeed on the very day she died, her whispered prayer was that her life, in just some small way might be used to encourage others to "Seek the Lord while He may be found."

She most certainly experienced that joy and peace in believing. And now it's all face to face with Christ her Lord.

Nick the one-time Vic.

Congratulations to Adam

Adam Crabb completed the Grizzly in 4hours 27 mins on the 9th March and still looked good at the end.

The Grizzly is a multi-terrain race across the glorious East Devon coastline and countryside and the major event in the calendar of the Axe Valley Runners.



The Donkey's Tale *by Joy Tofts*

Jenny stood in the stable with her young foal born that day,
In a nearby stall was Mary with her babe in a manger bed of hay,
The small foal watched as the baby slept, but his mind was at a loss,
Why did the child wear the halo sign while his little back bore the sign of a cross?

Some thirty years were to pass before their paths would cross once more.

The babe was now a full grown man and the donkey carried him through palms galore.

The man and the little donkey knew they had met before and both recalled their infant days spent in that stable poor.

Now the final journey, together at the end,

The King who wore a crown of thorns,

Nearby his donkey friend.

The young man died on that friday and our fate was firmly set.

Now every donkey carries a cross so that we will not forget.

Legend tells us that the cross on the back of all donkeys is the shadow from the cross and he stood nearby at the crucifixion

Rev Nigel writes...



As we continue through the season of Lent, a time to step back and reflect, we journey towards the season of Easter and a very special week in the Church calendar, which we call Holy week. Please do join if you can and we journey together as a community of churches.

We begin on Palm Sunday (April 13th) when we remember the time Jesus Rode into Jerusalem on a donkey with the crowds laying palms on the ground. There is a variety of services across our churches on that day, so do join us for either All age or Morning Worship services at either Upottery, Dunkeswell and Luppitt, or BCP Holy Communion at Sheldon or Easter Carols at Plymtree.

The end of the week leading up to Easter Sunday, we have the opportunity to journey with Jesus to the cross. Maundy Thursday (17th April – 7pm) at Dunkeswell Church we will be holding a special evening service which invites us to watch and to pray and to step into the words of the Bible as we remember the special meal that Jesus shared with his disciples.



On Good Friday (18th April), we continue to walk alongside those who were there on the day Jesus died upon the Cross. We will gather at Wolford Chapel, Dunkeswell at 11am for a quiet reflective service before heading over to Hartridge Hill in Luppitt at 12 30pm for a very poignant and special service where we gather together to literally stand at the foot of the cross. Thank you to those who will put up the wooden crosses

on the day which brings to life the events that happened 2000 years ago.

We do have a full set of services and events during April which will lead us into Easter, please do join us if you are able to and see this magazine for the different services and times.

As we think about new life this time of the year, we are taken to Easter day itself where traditionally we will also give and receive Easter Eggs as a symbol of new life. As you crack open your Easter Eggs and find the eggs empty depicting the empty tomb that Jesus rose from, I encourage you to join Christians everywhere as we celebrate this Easter day.

I wish you all a very happy Easter and renewed hope for the future as we pray for God's peace and his presence in the world today. Every blessing.

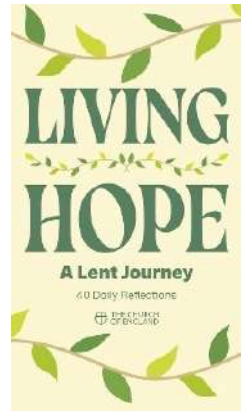
Rev Nigel Candelent
Dunkeswell Mission Community

Lent Reflections...

Monday, 7th April
~ 7.00pm - 8.00pm ,
Smeatharpe Village Hall EX14 9RF

Tues, 1st, 8th April
~ 2.00pm - 3pm,
Highfield sports & Social Club Dunkeswell
EX14 4JP (straight after soupa Tuesday which
begins at 1pm)

Weds 2nd 9th April
~ 1.30 pm - 2.30pm
Vestry rooms, Plymtree EX15 2JU



For our families and children and those young at heart we have our messy church style event where we explore Easter. Please do join us.



Dunkeswell Mission Community
Dunkeswell, Broadhembury, Luppitt, Sheldon
Upottery and Plymtree

**Come and join us for Easter
Family Fun# Crafts #Music**

Monday 7th April
Luppitt Village Hall
10.30am - 12pm
Refreshments
Free entry!



Children must be accompanied by an adult

**For families with primary/ pre- school children
Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

Joan Beckett



Joan moved into Cuckoo Cottage in the 1970/80s.

Joan was one of life's doers she soon became involved in many roles and when things needed help she was there organising and participating. Nothing was beyond her capabilities and over the years she became a valued and much loved part of the village community.

In later life Joan made a big decision to move to America to be with her son and his family. She sold Cuckoo Cottage and moved into Honiton to plan her move to America. From Honiton she kept in touch with Luppitt through her friends and through the Luppitt Packet. She started her move to America with extended trips with the intention of moving there permanently.

Unfortunately time wasn't on her side and illness caught up with her and she passed away before she could fulfill her dream. She will be missed.

The following are memories of friends and neighbours:

Joan was a very talented sewist amongst many other crafts and took great delight in my keenness to sew. One day she invited me next door to show me how to go about making a shirt for my little boy and had made a little mock up one for me to take home for one of the children's teddies. She was extremely kind to us as a neighbour and friend.

Gemma Fox

Joan joined the Luppitt Wives Group when she moved to Cuckoo Cottage. She was chairlady and secretary several times over the years, sorting out visiting speakers and visiting various factories, work places, gardens etc. Joan enjoyed many crafts including Honiton Lace which she demonstrated in Honiton Museum. She was also a very good cook and every year we visited her home for demonstrations and to enjoy the results. She sometimes ended the meeting with a joke (groan!) often supplied by husband George.

Jean Gardiner

We remember Joan very fondly. We were neighbours for over 20 years. Joan was a good storyteller and would keep us enthralled and fascinated in her tales of her life. On many a car trip either to the hospital or airport Joan would chat easily about her life-especially about George her late husband and about her Dad and his years of service during WW1 and the Boer War. She would share her memories of the blitz in London where she grew up as a little girl. Joan was a firm believer in the spirit world and believed that her late husband was with her in Cuckoo Cottage. More recently Joan would regularly travel to America to visit her family and upon return would always visit us with tales, photos and proud memories of the time spent there with Paul, Alison and Lucy.

Lisa and Mark Clouter

Joan and I took on the flower show when Sally Twiss, Naomi Lott and Valerie Breakspear gave up. This was over 20 years ago (I can hardly believe it's been that long). She always organised everything all the exhibits and judges etc. I knew as much as anyone what would be in the show. Thursday night before the show was always busy, collecting the entries and making labels. We were always pleasantly surprised how many there were. She would always put my name first on anything in the Packet. The last time I saw Joan she proudly showed me a photo of where she would be living In America and the view from her bedroom window. I enjoyed the years with Joan and will miss her very much.

Sue Wilson

Although being involved in many organisations/ activities Luppitt, Joan still found time to cook for the Friday market for about 30 years. She would take a six week break each summer to participate in another of her hobbies;- making lace at the Allhallows Museum in Honiton.

Her Friday favourites would include Cheese Straws, Cheese Scones, Sausage Plait, Apple Cake, Lemon Drizzle and then the extras such Simnel Cake at Easter and Mince Pies with Brandy Butter at Christmas.

Thank you Joan

Mary Joyce

Joan was a member of the Parish Council and served as a Chair Person from May 1999 to April 2007. A grant of £1,950 was given February 2007 towards the production of the Parish Plan, so Joan was the Parish Council Chair Person when this process started.

Brian Pulman

Joan did a lot of work helping to run the Luppitt Packet. Her cartoons were famous and a great amusement especially if you where depicted in one of them. She also did many front covers over numerous years. One of her most famous works of art hangs up in most of our houses and we take great pride in using it as our front cover this month.

The Luppitt Packet Team

The Luppitt Inn – Reopened

Many of you will be aware that the ‘Luppitt Inn’ has reopened its doors, but how much about the ‘our local’ do you know?

Up until December 2020, Mary Wright was the owner and landlady of this village asset and had been the landlady for around 35 years, since her husband’s death, until her own passing in 2020.

The pub was quite famous for various reasons. Firstly CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale’s) had The Luppitt Inn on their good pub guide and on the short list of least spoilt pubs (nationwide). This least spoilt pub label, could also be interpreted as ‘nothing has been done to it for many years’, which sounds great, but there comes a point . . .

After Mary’s passing, the pub closed and the building remained empty, whilst the solicitors ran up a bill doing something or other, which all takes time! Meanwhile the lack of heating and abundance of damp took affect and when we were able to have the reins, things had changed! Plaster wasn’t necessarily on the walls, or ceilings at the top of the room etc. The only way forward was to gut the place! Jump forward at least a year and the building work was done. Next was to get the relevant licensing required and bang, the work was done.

Was the work done? Or just beginning?

Either way we reopened on the 7th March 2025, when we welcomed both old and new customers through the doors once again.

Now’s the awkward bit, when I’m meant to blow our own trumpet and make you fall in love with the place. To be honest we won’t appeal to everyone, as the pub is only small, without a beer garden or room for a wedding reception. Size isn’t everything though, (so others have been told). Being small means we are all inclusive and often everyone will be involved in one discussion as a whole, rather than an assortment of couples and small groups struggling to find things to say. Come and boast about those little wins and high points in life, or share your problems and together find a solution, or see the funny side. (we will try to laugh with you, not at you)

We are a community pub, in our community, for the community. We are all stronger together, then we are apart.

We have Otter bitter (not travelled far!) on draught, (polypin) with most other drinks in either a can or bottle. There is a fridge to keep some drinks chilled, whilst a wood burner can keep you warm. There’s even a toilet indoors now!

We have tried to keep prices down / competitive, but ultimately need to make some money to survive in this struggling industry. This can only happen with your support. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Opening hours are 7.30pm to 11.00pm, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Find ‘The Luppitt Inn’ on facebook, or better still visit us! Cash preferred, but card payments catered for. Well behaved children and dog’s welcome.

Caroline and Phil

REBUS PUZZLES 6



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ESL VAULT

<https://www.eslvault.com>

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ESL VAULT

<https://www.eslvault.com>

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ESL VAULT

<https://www.eslvault.com>

REBUS PUZZLES 9

Places

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ESL VAULT

<https://www.eslvault.com>

Clerk's report of a Meeting of Luppitt Parish Council held at Luppitt Village Hall on Tuesday, 4 March 2025 at 8 pm

Present: Cllrs Michele Turner (Chair), Charles Murray, Paul Prettejohn, Brian Pulman, Andrew Tucker, Yehudi Levine (EDDC), Iain Chubb (DCC) and five member of the public

Receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lindsay Hill, Martin Summers, Susan Tucker and Colin Brown (EDDC)

Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 4 February 2025, were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Tucker and seconded by Cllr Pulman).

Declaration of Interest

Cllr Tucker declared an interest in the item relating to the Certificate of Lawfulness (Existing) Application at Wick Cross because he carries out work there.

PLANNING

Applications (for comment, support or objection)

24/1631/CPE – Certificate of Lawfulness (Existing) Application at barns north of Wick Cross

The Parish Council's comments concerning this application were discussed at length. It was agreed that mention would be made that farm traffic comprising tractors and lorries have had regular access to the site.

Decisions

23/1770/AGR – Blackenfields Farm - Refused

24/0283/AGR – Stockers Cottage – Decided – AGR planning application required

24/2433/LBC – Woodhayes Cottage – Approval with conditions

Housing Need Survey

The clerk had written to Angela King at EDDC to discuss possible next steps and had received a detailed reply from her. The clerk will forward this to Parish Councillors.

REPORTS

Ward Councillor

Cllr Levine gave an overview of the situation regarding devolution. He pointed out that it has been made clear that the Government will not be responsible for debts that have been incurred by defunct councils and that Town and Parish Councils should be aware. EDDC will now be dissolved in 2028 – a year later than originally thought. It is recognised that this interim period will be extremely difficult with staff leaving, morale low and projects not being completed.

County Councillor

- Cllr Chubb also spoke about devolution. The Government has rejected the request to postpone County Council elections and these will take place as originally planned in May 2025.
- Devon County Council has produced a balanced budget. 79% goes to adult and children services alone which does not leave much to fund other areas that are important to residents – eg roads and public transport.

HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

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

Cllr Pulman and the clerk had gone round the parish and identified potholes that the clerk then reported to Devon Highways. The table below shows the results.

LOCATION	REFERENCE	COMMENT RECEIVED
Valley Heights	W251829215	Out for repair/repared
Further up the road from Valley Heights – on left one pothole and	W251829220	No action

LOCATION	REFERENCE	COMMENT RECEIVED
subsidence		
Robins Bungalow – several potholes	W251829224	Repaired – these had not been repaired so clerk will report again
Approaching Ford Hill Cottages – big pothole surrounded by road deterioration	W251829225	Passed to contractor – repaired. Not repaired so clerk will report again.
The Barn, Ford Bridge – 3 potholes	W251829226	Out for repair/repaired
Approaching Woodhayes entrance – severe road deterioration – also just past Woodhayes entrance	Already reported – references W251829221 W251829216 W251829223	Out for repair/repair Repaired Repaired
Butkins – halfway between Higher Wick and Barn Farm	W251829230	Passed to contractors
Just past New Barn Farm towards Beacon and one just before right bend	W251829231 W251829232	No action Out for repair/repaired
Just before Greenlands on the bridge	W251829235	Passed to contractors → repaired
From Dove Cottage towards Lower Moorlands – numerous potholes	W251829236	Private land
Coombeshead – round first bend several potholes	W2518292237	No action
School Lane		Road not supported by Devon County Council

The clerk will report the following:

- Robins Bungalow
- Approaching Ford Hill Cottages
- Hillend – pothole
- Hillend – severe edge of road deterioration

Cllr Pulman advised that the culvert past Littletown Farm has been repaired.

- A parishioner had raised the issue of blocked drains with Cllr Turner. The clerk will send the correct link to Cllr Turner for reporting this to Devon Highways so that she may pass this on to the parishioner.

Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund

The clerk had applied for a grant towards the drainage and ditch clearance work that Cllr Tucker has been asked to carry out. The clerk had received a disappointing response from Devon Highways to say that, due to limited funding, they have had to tighten their policies to align with the original purpose of the fund which was to fund tools and materials, not contractors or sub-contractors. Cllr Chubb was unaware of this decision.

Parish Maintenance

Grit Bin at Beacon

The clerk has again reported the grit bin at Beacon (by Walleys Place) that needs filling.

Road Signs

The clerk has ordered two road signs warning drivers to slow down. These will be placed at Mount Stephen Cross and Barn Cross.

The Mill

The clerk has written to the resident of The Mill on behalf of the Parish Council.

Landslides

Cllr Tucker was asked to deal with the landslides between Maple Cross and Halsden.

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

Work on Footpaths

Cllr Tucker has replaced the last remaining stile with a new gate at Hartridge. There are now pedestrian gates all the way round which is a great improvement for public access.

The Chairman of Luppitt Commons Ltd (Gavin Brake) has advised that the footpath sign has broken off the rotten post further down the same footpath towards the monastery. Cllr Tucker was asked to install a new post. Gavin Brake has volunteered to fix the sign to the new post.

The second Platinum Jubilee tree has died despite Cllr Pulman's valiant efforts to keep it alive. Instead of trying with a third tree, Gavin suggested adopting a young oak tree on the opposite side of the road. It was agreed that this was a sensible solution. Cllr Pulman undertook to move the sign.

Footpath 14 – boggy area

The clerk had contacted the new P3 Public Rights of Way Officer – Jon Boyd – who was looking into the possible diversion that had been agreed in 2021. However, Cllr Tucker advised that the diversion has itself become waterlogged due to the actions of the beavers.

Bridge at Otter Falls

The clerk had been sent details of deterioration of the bridge at Otter Falls. The clerk will ask our Footpath Warden to investigate and report back.

ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Arrangements for VE Day – 8 May 2025

John Thorne has contacted the fireworks supplier and also the resident who very kindly organises the display.

Community Website

Cllr Turner confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan website will be used for the community going forward.

Litter Pick

A volunteer to organise a litter pick is needed. Cllr Turner will publicise it in the Luppitt Packet and on the parish WhatsApp group.

Grass Cutting at Millrise

It was agreed to increase the annual payment from £400 to £425.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Bank Signatories

The clerk has submitted the forms for bank signatories but has heard nothing to date.

Correspondence

- The clerk responded to Membury Parish Council's communication supporting their concern about proposed changes to Inheritance Tax on farms but has heard nothing further.
- The editors of the Luppitt Packet have thanked the Parish Council for the £175 donation.
- An email from the Planning Officer of the Blackdown Hills National Landscape extending the consultation period for the draft Management Plan was noted.

CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

There were no items.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- The member of the public from Millrise brought the Parish Council up to date on progress with the water leak. Devon County Council have undertaken to keep the path clean so that it does not cause a safety hazard to pedestrians. Discussions are ongoing. Cllr Turner thanked the resident for continuing to keep the Parish Council up to date.
- The clerk confirmed to a member of the public present that she had secured an extension to the date for submission of the Parish Council's comments concerning the Certificate of Lawfulness at Wick Cross until 5 March.
- A couple of clarification questions regarding the Certificate of Lawfulness were answered.

There were no further questions and the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

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

Tuesday, 1 April 2025

Tuesday, 6 May 2025 – Annual Parish Meeting at 7 pm

Tuesday, 6 May 2025 – Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council at 8 pm

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on **Tuesday, 6 May 2025, at 7 pm.**

There is often confusion between the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council. All Town and Parish Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting, which must take place between 1 March and 1 June (inclusive).

The Annual Parish Meeting is for all electors of the Parish. Even though the meeting is convened and chaired by the Chair of the Parish Council, it is **not** a meeting of the Parish Council.

The purpose of the meeting is to give the Parish Council and other local organisations an opportunity to let local residents know what they have been doing over the past year. The meeting is also an opportunity for electors to have a say on anything they consider valuable to the people of the Parish.

An elector may also make a suggestion and comment on anything pertinent to the residents of the Parish. This will be welcomed and is the whole purpose of the meeting.

Attendance at Annual Parish Meetings generally has been dwindling over recent years. The Parish Council would like to reverse that trend this year so please do come along if you can.

Encouraging news about Skylark conservation

The news is good but there is more we can do

The celebrated song of the Skylark is an evocative and welcome sound of Spring, and not surprisingly there has been much alarm voiced recently on the Luppitt WhatsApp group about the continuing decline of Skylarks on our moors.

It isn't just Luppitt that is suffering – RSPB statistics show dramatic declines across the UK with the breeding population of Skylarks declining by 62% between 1970 and 2015. In Luppitt we have two organisations with wildlife conservation high on their agendas. The Luppitt Landscape Partnership (LLP) is working with owners of 80% of Luppitt's land area encouraging them to adopt long term commitments to managing the land more sympathetically for wildlife with emphasis on maintaining and restoring wildlife habitats.

Skylarks nest on the ground in clumps of short grass or crops, preferring large arable or grassland fields. They favour open areas to allow sightings of potential predators. In the winter, Skylarks need sources of seeds and cover which traditionally they have found in winter stubbles.

A relatively recent change in farming practice which has negatively affected ground-nesting birds like Skylarks has been the increase in early cuts of silage. The demand for silage, and the use of artificial fertiliser to promote early Spring grass growth and hence earlier first cuts, means fields which once stood undisturbed through a whole Spring are now able to be cut much earlier, putting paid to Skylark nests in the process.

Silage timing, together with the decline in the volume of winter stubbles, and the loss of traditional crop rotations which once provided more shelter and food sources for wildlife, have all contributed to the decline of these birds.

Changing the timing of first-cut silage in fields suitable for Skylarks, maintenance of grassy buffer strips and field margins to provide good nesting environments throughout the breeding season and provision of winter seed sources can all help support Skylarks.

Wildlife conservation is also a major focus for the Luppitt Commoners organisation. Chairman Gavin Brake has high hopes for the continuation of an experimental programme started 5 years ago aimed at reclaiming areas on the side of Hartridge from bracken infestation, returning the land to acidic upland grass providing greater biodiversity and an ideal environment for breeding wildlife. Bracken suppresses botanical diversity and can smother important habitats. Working with Natural England, the initial stages of the programme have been very successful and this year, Skylarks have already been spotted and heard which suggests they will have a long and successful breeding season encouraged by the newly established upland grass areas. Also signage is going up around the Hartridge permitted paths asking that dogs be kept on leads.

Whilst all this is very good news, another factor working against ground nesting birds is dogs (and indeed, cats). Even the best behaved dogs, when out on a Spring walk across open land full of wonderful scents will naturally want to explore, and their explorations into borders, grassy clumps and hedgerows can easily result in scaring adult birds off nests, trampling eggs, or damaging tiny vulnerable chicks.



There are copious conduct guidelines offered by Government and wildlife organisations but it seems that not all dog walkers are aware of the different laws governing dog walking in the countryside. Both Gavin Brake and Gavin Saunders of the LLP suggest that better education would help – and that is something all of us can contribute to.

For instance, the law governing walking dogs on public footpaths says that at any time of year, dogs must be under close control. There is no legal obligation to have them on leads. But how do we define ‘under close control’? How many can say that their dogs stay close to them at all times, stick to the footpath, come when called, never root around in the grass borders and hedgerows?? That is the definition of ‘under close control’ and if that isn’t the case, dog walkers should protect wildlife during the breeding season by keeping their dogs on leads.

The rules governing dog walking on land mapped as Open Access are slightly tighter because there, the law says dogs must be on a short lead at all times during the breeding season from 1st March to 31st July and at all times when near livestock.

Applying the rules to our moors, part of the walk around Hartridge is a public footpath, but part of it is not – it is a permissive path on Open Access land which is frequently grazed by sheep or cattle. On Hense Moor, the situation is similar in that there are clearly marked public footpaths but the rest is classified as Open Access and large areas are grazed by livestock.

So, apart from the work being done by the LLP and the Luppitt Commoners, what can we all do to help our endangered wild birds? Clearly dog walkers can do a lot by firstly making sure they know the basic legal requirements, but asking themselves whether their pets could be contributing to the crisis facing Red Listed wild birds if they are off the lead. Anyone who has visitors with dogs can make sure they understand the importance of keeping dogs on leads if they cannot be kept under close control.

Owners of holiday cottages can make sure that clear guidance on walking with or without dogs is included in the information packs. All walkers could use WhatsApp to highlight sightings of nesting birds to alert others to take care around them.

If we all contribute what we can, hopefully the wonderful song of the Skylarks will continue to raise our spirits at the beginning of every Spring.

COUNCIL BACKS PLANS TO REDEVELOP LUPPITT COMMON



A new initiative from the upcoming Local Plan, which seeks to provide more permanent sites for Travellers, has identified Luppitt Common as a perfect location.

Spokesman for EDDC, Ms. April Fueller, said 'Luppitt Common just ticks all the boxes'. It is the largest open expanse of common ground we have in the area, and also, because of its height and exposure,

it is perfect for the wind turbines that will be needed to provide power to the site.

Priority for residence at the site will be given to breeders of Gypsy Vanner horses which are emerging as an important form of eco-friendly rural transport. They would, she said, be an excellent alternative for local farmers inspecting their fields as they could trot around the farm on a Vanner and leave the tractor in the shed. They are also good in harness, so Luppitt residents could ditch their cars, buy a cart and trot into Honiton to do the weekly shop – a move much welcomed by EDDC as it would mean less complaints about potholes.

The re-designation of Luppitt Common to a Travellers home would also bring new tourism to the area. The Gypsy Horse Fairs, which focus on buying and selling horses, are yet to have a regular venue in Devon. On average these fairs attract 10,000 visitors over a 4 day period, so, said April Fueller, applications for an extension to the Luppitt Village Hall car park and creation of a new B & B wing to the Luppitt Inn would be encouraged.

The site plan shows the proposed layout, plus the areas of Common grazing that will be re-allocated to the Vanner horse breeding project.

The Parish Council have largely welcomed the plan but have objected to the proposed renaming of Luppitt Common to East Devon Travellers Lodge, preferring 'Vanner Ridge' or Daisy Flora Lop.

A public meeting will be held in the Village Hall – date to be confirmed. Plans for the development will be on show, and a 20 strong delegation from The Travellers Association will be in attendance. Parking will be limited as most of the space will be reserved for horse drawn caravans.



Traditional Easter Simnel Cake

This distinctive cake has been historically associated with Easter in England for many centuries. It was originally linked to Mothering Sunday, which falls half way through Lent and the cake was seen to be a special treat at that stage in the fast.

It hasn't always been a cake – it began life in mediaeval times as a yeast-leavened bread. In the 17th and 18th centuries, it became a pudding, rather like Spotted Dick. The transformation into a cake only happened in the 20th century when it was designed as we see it today – a light fruit cake with a layer of marzipan in its centre, topped with more marzipan and 11 marzipan balls which represent the 12 apostles without Judas.

Simnel Cake is very difficult to find, nowadays, in supermarkets, but it is easy to make at home.

Ingredients

225g softened butter,
225g caster sugar,
4 eggs,
225g plain flour,
2 tsp cinnamon,
zest of 2 oranges and 2 lemons,
325g of mixed dried fruit plus handful of chopped glace cherries,
500g marzipan



Method

Grease and line an 8 inch cake tin and heat your oven to 150C.

Beat the butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy. Gradually add the eggs, fold in the flour then the zest and fruit.

Put half the cake mix into the tin. Roll out one third of the marzipan into a circle and place on top of the cake mix. Pile in the remainder of the cake mix, leaving an indentation in the centre so the top remains flat when baked.

Bake for 2 – 2.5 hrs until a skewer comes out clean, then leave it to cool in the tin.

Turn out your cake onto a heatproof tray and brush the top generously with apricot jam. Roll out enough of the marzipan to cover the cake, then form the rest into 11 balls and place round the top.

To be totally traditional, you should then brush the top of the marzipan balls and use a chef's flame torch to lightly brown them.

GARDEN JOTTINGS

The sun is shining this afternoon. I've been looking at last year's tall growth on the buddleia shrubs in the front garden. They need a good prune, taking them down to a green shoot a couple of feet or so off the ground. The branches I take off can be broken up and put in our Devon County Council green bin. That goes every other Thursday except at Christmas time, recently at just after seven in the morning. You must take it out on Wednesday evening to be sure. The smaller and leafier bits of the buddleias can go down to our compost and rot down with our green cat litter to useful compost.

I have grown buddleias for many years as they are very attractive to colourful butterflies. The ones I grow all came from a packet of seed many years ago. The colour ranges from deep purple through paler mauves to pure white. The buddleias can also be propagated from green stems a foot or so long cut off at a leaf joint with short leaves at the top. Plant them where they will not be scorched and dried out by the hot sun.

Butterflies congregate on buddleias in large numbers – peacocks, red admirals, commas, tortoise shells, some years painted ladies. The earliest butterfly is often the pale yellow brimstone out on a sunny spring morning after sheltering over winter on some secluded branch. Orange tips, the females all white, come out in April. You may see an early peacock too searching for a dandelion or some other wild flower. Red admirals tend to be later, often on low growing garden sedums, sometimes on ivy in autumn. I lived in



Lincolnshire for many years when butterflies seemed more numerous but less varied. Speckled woods are common here but unknown there. In June we have large fritillaries on the buddleias. I am not expert to know which species. Tiger moths appear in summer too, although technically not butterflies.

Some butterfly enthusiasts rear them, keeping the eggs or caterpillars in boxes made of wood, cardboard and fine nylon netting. You must provide them with their special food plant or they will starve. This is usually the one you found the eggs on. As for caterpillars eating, beware of the common whites ravenously massacring your cabbages and other brassicas!

David Street

NEWS FROM THE LUPPITT LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

An opportunity to take part in wildlife recording in Luppitt this summer

Building on the ecological survey work so far for the Luppitt Landscape Partnership, which has identified where the good habitats are for wildlife across the parish, we are planning a variety of activities this spring and summer to improve our understanding of what wildlife we have in Luppitt, so we can better target future efforts to improve the situation.

This work will be organised by the LLP team with professional input from ecologists Erin Reardon and George Greenshields, and it will provide a number of opportunities for local people to take part. In particular we will be:

- Carrying out recording of breeding bird activity using static audio recorders and by walking transects (standardised routes across a piece of landscape) several times in the season, noting the birds heard;
- Doing the same for bats, through nighttime walks with bat sound recorders;
- Walking butterfly transects to record butterflies on the wing;
- Carrying out additional targeted surveys for other key species.

There are people in the parish who have manifested their love for wildlife over the years by recording what they see and hear, and there is therefore already a quantity of wildlife records here, some of it going back decades. For example Sally Twiss has recorded phenology data (the dates when birds first start singing, amphibians start being active, insects emerge and plants come into flower) since the 1980s. This data is invaluable in showing trends and putting today's survey work into a historical context.

If you have wildlife records which you would be happy to share with the LLP project to help us plan for positive change in the future, we would love to hear from you. You can contact Gavin, Nicola, Erin and George via info@luppittlandscape.org. Anything shared will not be broadcast beyond the project, but will simply be used to inform our work.

Meanwhile look out for further details of wildlife recording opportunities, advertised through various outlets over the coming weeks.

Oral history recording

A reminder that we are looking for volunteers to be involved with oral history recording in the parish, as mentioned in the previous issue. If you are interested please contact Jess Huffman jesshuffman@hotmail.co.uk.

***Luppitt Landscape Partnership team,
The Granary, Overday Farm***



KIDS MOVIES

Tuesday 22nd April 10:15 for 10:30 start

Big Screen at Luppitt Village Hall Entry £2

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LUPPITT MOVIES

Friday 25th April 7:30pm.

LADIES FILM NIGHT

Luppitt Village Hall £2 entry

***** HALL BAR *****

***** POPCORN *****



Upottery Primary School



The children at Upottery Primary School have been enthusiastically immersed in their curriculum learning, embracing new topics with excitement and curiosity.

One of the standout moments this year was World Book Day, where pupils thoroughly enjoyed the celebrations. We were delighted to welcome a storyteller, whose captivating tales made the day even more memorable.

British Science Week was another highlight, offering exciting opportunities for hands-on exploration and discovery. Our pupils participated in live lessons alongside peers from other schools, broadening their learning experience in an engaging and interactive way.



We are incredibly grateful to our wonderful PTFA and parent community for their dedication and hard work in assembling our new polytunnel. It looks fantastic, and the children are eager to start using it for their outdoor learning. The PTFA also organised a brilliant Golden Ticket competition, where both children and adults had the chance to win amazing prizes. Their ongoing support continues to enrich school life, and we truly appreciate their efforts.

A special thank you goes to Reverend Nigel for his regular visits. His presence and contributions to our school community are invaluable, and we deeply appreciate his time and support.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting Summer Term packed with school trips, sporting events, and our much-anticipated Summer Fayre, which will take place on Friday 18th July 2025 at 2:00 pm. We warmly invite everyone to join us for this fantastic event!

There is so much to look forward to at Upottery Primary School, and we can't wait for the term ahead.

Tom Pettifer

Head of School



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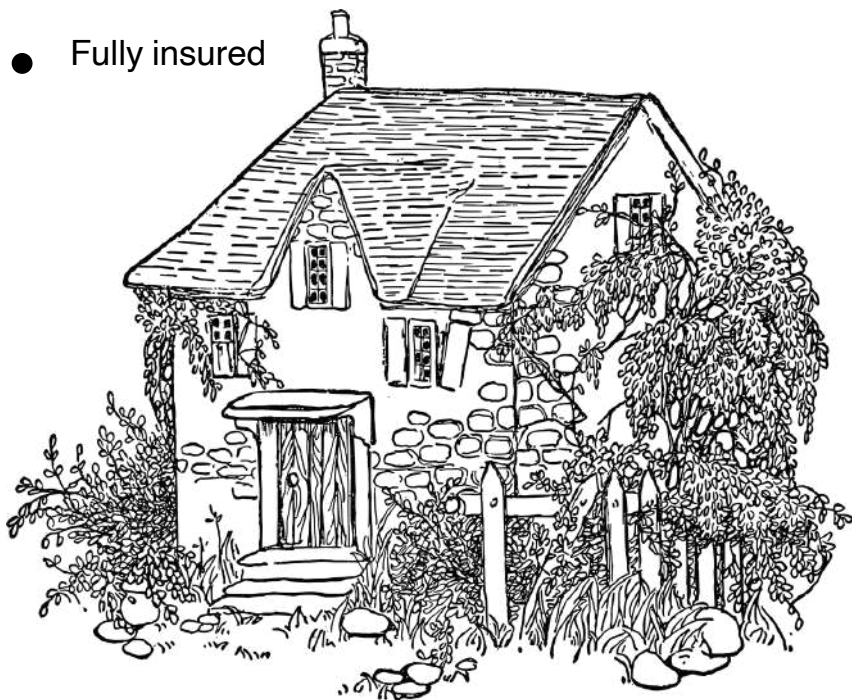
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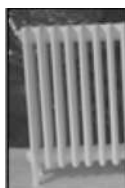
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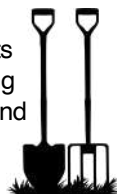
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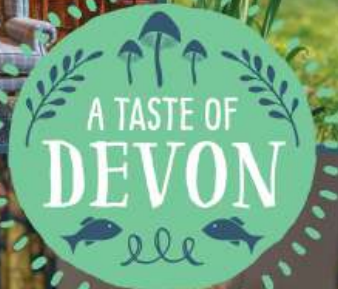


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