

Luppitt Packet

June 2025

Art by Julia Sparks



VE Day Celebrations

Thank you to all those who came along to help celebrate VE day on 8th May. The team supporting the event excelled as always with burgers and hot dogs being expertly cooked and constructed from the BBQ. In addition a good variety of drinks were served from the bar. The bonfire was lit at 9.30pm and was spectacular along with the fireworks.

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who helped put together the event - all the hard work came together seamlessly into a fitting tribute.



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THE LUPPITT PACKET

This year, the first day of summer, also known as the Summer Solstice, will fall on Saturday 21st June. It will also be the longest day and the shortest night of the year, being the period when the Northern Hemisphere is tilted closest to the Sun. We have had such a warm Spring, it feels as if summer has been with us for weeks already. Let's hope the fine weather continues.



We have an interesting issue this month with a welcome spread of contributions from members of the Parish. Do keep these coming. If you feel you have something interesting that you would like published, please send it to us.

Particularly good to see the first of what we believe will be regular updates from the Luppitt Commons management organisation – now a Company Limited by Guarantee rather than a Trust.

Also lots of news from the Luppitt Landscape Partnership with a range of opportunities to participate in some of their planned activities.

Later in the issue, you will find details of our search for a new member of the Packet editorial production team as both current editors are facing increasing pressures on their time and will have less and less of it to dedicate to the magazine as the year unfolds.

Christine Ryder, Michele Turner and the Luppitt Packet team

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Luppitt Entertainments Committee Events

Don't forget!!

Sunday 1st June, 2pm: Family Footpath Fun

An interactive walk for all, especially families,
finishing at the Village Hall with refreshments,
for which all are welcome to join us!

Events to look forward to later:

Saturday 9th August: Flower Show and Fete

Save the Dates!

Monday 29th September: Harvest Supper

Friday 24th October: Autumn Bingo

November (date tbc) Quiz Night

Saturday 13th December: Christmas Party

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Short Mat Bowls 7.30pm Thursdays

Friday Coffee / Market 11am until 1pm
except for last week of the month which is on Saturday

The Luppitt Inn 7:30pm every Monday, Wednesday & Friday

PLEASE NOTE

**THE TENNIS COURT AREA OF LUPPITT
VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK IS CLOSED FOR
MAINTENANCE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

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

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	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)

GARDEN JOTTINGS

It's getting light early now. The first glimmer of brightness and the birds start their song. Blackbirds round us are really quite noisy, and throughout the day too, and in the evening. A beautiful sound that makes you glad to be alive, very different from mechanical noise. Really I imagine in their avian language they're saying "This space is mine. It's mine. You get lost." I sometimes wonder if early people didn't get the idea of music and song from birds.



Of course there are many other birds joining in. As I wasn't brought up in a rural environment I don't recognise their special song. There are various tits and finches, crows, redcrests, woodpeckers, robins, thrushes and others. Pigeons lumber about just over your head cooing and chattering. Henry pheasant and his wives are often about helping themselves to food. In the summer high up in the sky a solitary buzzard often wails plaintively, perhaps recently hatched but now left to feed itself. The largest bird we ever had was a gaudy peacock strutting about before breakfast time.

Last month I mentioned yellow arums. This is *Arum creticum* from Turkey and the Greek islands. If it has a more ordinary name I don't know it. I first came across this arum in the seventies from the Sherbourne nursery of Jim Archibald and Eric Smith. Jim Archibald moved to Wales and concentrated on collecting and selling unusual seeds before he passed away five or so years ago from a brain tumour. *Arum creticum* grows green leaves in late winter. It has large rather twisted spathes with a long protruding pedicle. The strain I have is from Cotswold nursery. It has now grown for several years in an exposed spot with no frost protection. *Arum creticum* is an unusual and noticeable plant.



David Street



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

Services

1st	09:30 AM	Holy Communion	Rev J Penn
8th	11:00 AM	Holy Communion	Rev N Candent
15th	11:00 AM	Morning Worship	Lay Led
22nd	11:00 AM	Morning Worship	Lay Led

Mission Community Services

20th	4:00 PM	Friday @ 4, Throgmorton Hall Rev N Candent	
29th	10:30 AM	DMC Café Church, Broadhembury Memorial Hall Rev N Candent With guest speaker from The Melanesian Mission UK	

Scan the QR code to Donate

Donate directly to the bank: Luppitt Church 53-50-55 05107032
ref: FabricFund
or consider setting up a regular donation via standing order or
via Parish Giving Luppitt Church (supports setup by phone, post
or online)



Church Cleaning and Flower Rota 2025

7 June	Sue Piechowiak
14 June	Jean Gardiner and Joy Tofts
21 June	Pat Bussey
28 June	Mary Joyce and Pearl Pulman
5 July	Mary Hill
12 July	Sue Piechowiak
19 July	Jean Gardiner and Joy Tofts
26 July	Pat Bussey

Tuppill: A Day in the Life of the River Lurve

Dear Reader,

This short story is about a mythical village called Tuppill and has been produced by Dr Nigel Hurst in the style of Dylan Thomas' famous story - Under Milk Wood. He used an Artificial Intelligence programme called CHAT GTP which can refine and steer a conversation / content towards a desired style. We think it is very clever and a delightful read. We hope you enjoy it too.

Please be assured that none of the characters and events described refer to any living person or real events. Such events of course could happen in any farming community!

(Apologies to Dylan Thomas and his mythical village of Llareggub)

Morning breaks on Tuppill, cradled in the hills of East Devon, where the River Lurve ambles as lazily as the villagers' gossip. The air smells faintly of damp grass, cow manure, and a hint of something witchy—though the last real spell was cast when Granny Hobbs cursed the milkman's float to reverse uphill during Lent, 1923.



On the high ridge, Farmer Pritchard's cows plot their great escape. Below, at Luppitt Harbour (a glorified bend in the river), Mrs. Tallmadge recalls the day the fish lorry toppled its load, turning the river into a writhing, silver soup. She still swears the trout sang hymns as they drifted by.

In the heart of the village, the incomers awaken. Mrs. Drabble-Smythe, a formidable retired schoolmistress, sips her organic nettle tea while drafting an indignant email to the Parish Council about the "overly exuberant carol service." Mr. Pennington, her neighbour and a tech consultant who insists he's "semi-retired," wrestles with his Wi-Fi, which has been cursed to vanish every Tuesday since he accidentally mowed down the village witch's parsley.

The coffee morning begins at the Village Hall. Mrs. Codd serves the tea, her blue rinse bobbing rhythmically as she judges everyone in attendance. The chatter is as thick as clotted cream.

“Did you hear? Farmer Pritchard’s cows got into Mrs. Winthrop’s garden and crushed her dahlias,” whispers Mrs. Dewberry.

“Ruined her leeks too,” adds Mr. Dunn with a satisfied smirk, for he’s been envious of her blue-ribbon-winning produce since 1956.

Meanwhile, on the outskirts, Farmer Pritchard retrieves his renegade herd with language unfit for the hymnbook. Mrs. Winthrop surveys her wrecked vegetable patch and loudly proclaims she shall now “buy from Tesco.” Her daughter, having heard this threat for the 20th time this year, pretends to faint with horror.



In the afternoon, the village quiets. Sheep bleat softly in the distance. Retirees take their constitutionals and wave to Mrs Clasp, whose goats - known for their escapee prowess - are grazing in a hedge, eyeing the graveyard for new terrain. The goats’ most daring act remains their occupation of the pub’s snug one boozy evening last spring.

Evening falls. Tuppill nestles under a star-studded quilt. The River Lurve glistens like a sly smile, carrying with it centuries of secrets, spells, and spilled tea. If you listen closely, you might hear the witches’ laughter in the rustle of the trees or in the baa of the goats plotting their next heist.

As the village drifts to sleep, the ghosts of fish, witches, and mischief-makers past mingle in the mist, keeping Tuppill forever peculiar, forever enchanting.

N. Hurst with the aid of Chat GTP

V day or VE day

I remember V day morning. My father had a chemist shop (The Health Pharmacy), on the main road to Staines, almost opposite Hounslow Heath entrance. That sunny morning I was allowed out on the road in front. Crowds of excited people, soldiers in uniform and girls, were walking about. The Old Cavalry Barracks were nearby, and there was a lot of temporary military housing in fields along the road to Staines.

My father dressed the shop window with two large carboys one with blue, the other with red water. As he only had two carboys, he filled a large Winchester bottle in the middle with plain water, to mark the Allied colours.

I don't remember the afternoon. I think it may have clouded over. We would have listened to the King on the wireless.



D Street

Live Music at the Pub!

Luppitt Inn visitors were treated to some live music on 16 May. Pieter and Meyem Tak from The Netherlands had called into see Roger Hicks during their musical tour of the UK. They are part of a band called TakandBand.

Pieter writes all the band's songs in English. They also played at the Sidmouth Sea Fest on Saturday and all money raised was paid into the Blue Sky (Roger and David) Busking's Ukraine fund!

Truly lovely and generous people!



CREAM TEA ANYONE!

Did you know that Cream Teas are a global phenomenon, but where did they originate?

There are those who claim it was in Cornwall where there were so many Channel Island cows, but of course those of us who live in Devon know this can't be true, as the first documented evidence was discovered by historians studying ancient manuscripts as part of the research leading up to the 900th anniversary of the granting of Tavistock's Royal Charter by King Henry 1 in 1105. After piecing parts of manuscripts together they discovered that Benedictine monks could have created the dish to feed workers who were restoring the Abbey after it had been plundered by the Vikings in 997 AD. The restoration work was undertaken by Ordulf, Earl of



Devon and the monks gave his workers bread, clotted cream, and strawberry preserves.

Cream Teas became popular in Victorian times after the railways made the West Country much more accessible.

Then there is the problem of how you assemble the scones. In Cornwall, the split scone is covered in strawberry jam and topped with clotted cream, whilst in

Devon its cream first with strawberry jam on the top.

In March 2018, the Cornish National Trust at Lanhydrock House caused a social media backlash by advertising a Mother's Day Tea at the property on Facebook with a photo of a cream tea made the Devon way! After a number of mainly humorous comments the Trust corrected the error stating that the member of staff responsible for the mistake had been 'reprimanded and marched back across the Tamar.'

I must say I often assess the ingredients first before deciding as both can be runny and difficult to put on a scone. Heretic I hear you say! But this is probably why a lot of Tearooms serve the jam and cream in separate dishes.

I once went on a trip to view a series of lovely gardens in a Somerset village, which culminated in a cream tea. Unfortunately, the organisers had decided to use cream from aerosols to create a piped effect on the scones. It was a sweltering day, and the aerosols would not work. When the tea eventually arrived there was no jam on the swirl of cream only a strawberry – now that was never right!

Rev Nigel writes...

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

1 John 3:1 NIV



One of the joys of my ministry here within our community of churches (and there has been many!) has been the services we hold which invites all our Church communities to join together. Our DMC Cafe Church is not only an opportunity to gather together as one but also invite various organisations to tell us about the work they do. Last year we had a representative from CAP



(Christians against Poverty) where we not only found out about their work but gave us the opportunity to see how we could support them. On Sunday 29th June, Katie Drew who is the Executive Director of the Melanesian Mission UK will be joining us. The Melanesian Mission (MMUK) is a Mission Agency working with the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM) in the Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu and the UK. Plymtree C of E

School and our Church in Plymtree has links with MMUK. Please do come and join us to find out about the all the different challenges that these countries face due to climate change and how as a Christian community this organisation is having an impact as they offer support practically and spiritually. For more info go to <https://www.mmuk.net/>

Father's Day

The Bible quote at the top of the page is quite appropriate for this month as we are reminded of the generous love of God. The love of God, the Father, which is lavished on His family – the children of God.

This month we celebrate Father's day and all that is good about Fathering. Not everyone will have positive experiences of their own Father – yet we can all point to those in our lives who have fathered us, modelling, love, kindness, compassion and generosity in so many different ways. We will have services across our community of Churches on Father's Day on Sunday June 15th. Please join us if you are able to. Details of services and times can be found in this magazine or on our website <https://www.dunkeswell.org.uk>

Every blessing
Rev Nigel Candelent
Dunkeswell Mission Community



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

Friday@4...

Throgmorton Hall, Dunkeswell

Friday 20th June @4pm

Come and join us for...
Family time - Food@4
Followed by craft/activities/fun
Followed by story time & song.

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

Join the Dunkeswell Mission Community
as we hear about the work of the
Melanesian Mission UK

Sunday 29th June
Broadhembury Memorial Hall
Refreshments from 10 00am
Service starts at 10 30am.



A Long Road Home:

The History of Gypsies and Travellers in the Blackdown Hills
(As part of the June Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month)

For centuries, the hills and lanes of Devon — including our own Blackdown Hills — have been thoroughfares for a wide range of nomadic people, including Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers, and New Travellers. These communities, though often misunderstood, are woven deeply into the history of rural life in the West Country.

Historically, Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers moved through Devon with the seasons, doing essential work on farms; hedging, ditching, fruit picking, horse trading, tin-smithing, charcoal burning, knife sharpening and peg making. Many local families would have relied on them at one time or another. Some even settled here in the hills, contributing to the same rural culture we now celebrate. Their lifestyle - low-impact, seasonal, land-based - is actually something we now describe with words like "sustainable" and "resilient." They used horses for transport long before it was trendy to talk about carbon emissions.



Romany Gypsies arrived in England over 500 years ago, with records dating back to the early 1500s. Many settled in the South West, drawn by the gentle climate and the seasonal work offered by farming communities. Their knowledge of horses, traditional crafts, music, and storytelling enriched rural life — and continues to do so.

Irish Travellers, a distinct group with their own language and customs, also have a long history in the UK. Many passed through or settled in Devon, especially in the 19th and 20th centuries, working in agriculture, construction, and scrap metal recycling. Other traveller groups include travelling showmen and barge dwellers.

In more recent decades, the New Traveller movement emerged and has grown considerably — often people choosing a more mobile, off-grid lifestyle. Some were born into traditional travelling families, while

others were drawn by environmental values or a desire for freedom and simplicity. In recent years, especially due to spiralling rents and the lack of affordable housing, the movement has broadened to include so-called "vanlifers" — a diverse group that includes younger adventurers as well as retirees and older people seeking a more flexible or affordable way of life, often travelling in converted vans or motorhomes.

Sadly the history of Romany gypsies includes periods of intense discrimination and persecution — 250,000 European Romany people were killed during the Holocaust and a further 2,500 were forcibly sterilised and experimented on, a fact that is still too often overlooked. Even today, Travelling communities face increased challenges and ongoing public misunderstanding.

Today the majority of Local Authorities in the UK still fail to fulfil their statutory obligation to provide sufficient authorised permanent sites with amenities for Travellers, and 92% fail to provide any transit pitches at all. Traditional rural stopping places, or 'atchen tan', have been increasingly blocked, often through the use of boulders, ditches and other barriers, leading to a shortage of stopping locations, and prejudice against Travellers has been called "the last bastion of acceptable racism in this country" by the Commission for Racial Equality.

As part of Devon's rural history, Gypsies and Travellers have lived, worked, and moved through these landscapes for generations. Understanding their past helps shed light on a longstanding way of life that has shaped the countryside we know today — and perhaps, in doing so, could encourage a little more understanding along the way.

Fun Fact: Common english words with roots in Romani language

"lollipop" (from loli phabai, meaning red apple)

"cosh" (a stick or baton)

"chav" (from chavi, meaning child),

"pal" (friend, from pral meaning brother)

"bung" (to give or bribe)

"cushti" (very good)

Eve Vergano

**Clerk's report of the Annual General Meeting of Luppitt Parish Council
held at
Luppitt Village Hall on Tuesday, 6 May 2025 at 8 pm**

Present: Cllrs Michele Turner (Chair), Martin Summers (Vice-Chair), Charles Murray, Paul Prettejohn, Brian Pulman, Susan Tucker and 4 members of the public

Receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lindsay Hill, Colin Brown and Yehudi Levine (EDDC) and Iain Chubb (formerly DCC)

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Cllr Pulman took the chair for the election of Parish Council Chair. Cllr Pulman thanked Cllr Turner for carrying out her duties so well as Chair during the past year. Cllr Pulman invited nominations for Chair. Cllr Summers proposed Cllr Turner and this was seconded by Cllr Murray with all in favour. Cllr Turner then took the chair and invited nominations for Vice-Chair. Cllr Pulman proposed Cllr Summers and this was seconded by Cllr Murray with all in favour.

Appointment of Planning Committee, Parish Maintenance Committee, Tree Warden, Road Warden, Snow Warden and P3 Co-Ordinator

It was agreed unanimously that the whole council would be members of the Planning Committee (with a quorum of three) and that the whole council (excluding Cllr Tucker) would be members of the Parish Maintenance Committee (with a quorum of two). It was agreed unanimously that Cllr Pulman would act as co-ordinator of the Parish Maintenance Committee, that Cllr Tucker would continue as Tree Warden and Cllr Pulman would continue as snow warden (proposed by Cllr Summers, seconded by Cllr Murray). The clerk will continue to act as point of contact with the three footpath wardens for the P3 scheme.

Receive the Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Turner welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all the councillors for their confidence in re-electing her as Chair and said she was very happy to continue in this role. Cllr Turner then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chair.

Receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received as above.

Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 1 April 2025, were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Murray and seconded by Cllr Prettejohn).

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

PLANNING

Applications (for comment, support or objection)

25/0657/LBC – Shelves Cottage, Luppitt, EX14 4SN – remove internal wall between kitchen and dining room and replace 1 no external door on west elevation and 1 no external door on south elevation

The Parish Council has no objections to this planning application.

Decisions

24/0849/FUL – Stockers Cottage, Wick, EX14 4TY

Approval with conditions

REPORTS

Ward Councillor

Cllr Levine had sent a report for the Annual Parish Meeting which had been held before the Annual General Meeting where he spoke about the emerging Local Plan and the public's reaction to it. He also described the work of the various committees that he has been appointed to.

Cllr Brown had also sent a report for the Annual Parish Meeting where he spoke about the reduced car parking charges during the winter and the waste contract with Suez coming to an end.

County Councillor

County Council elections had taken place on 1 May and Cllr Iain Chubb had not been re-elected. The clerk has written to Iain to thank him for his contribution to the Parish Council meetings over the years. Ms Cathy Connor has been elected as County Councillor and the Parish Council looks forward to meeting her.

HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

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

The clerk has reported the serious edge of road deterioration at Hillend again.

Parish Maintenance

A resident had written to Cllr Turner (with a copy to the clerk) with regard to the lane that leads to Higher Moorlands Farm. Cllr Turner had not received the email. The clerk will forward it for Cllr Turner's attention.

Road Signs

The clerk has delivered the road signs to Cllr Tucker.

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

Bridge at Otter Falls

The clerk had received a positive response from the Public Rights of Way Officer for a grant towards the cost of repairing the bridge at Otter Falls. Cllr Tucker will carry out the work when time allows.

ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Inspection Reports of both play areas

Inspections had been carried out at the play area at Millrise and the one at the Village Hall. The clerk handed the reports to Cllr Pulman (for Millrise) and Cllr Summers (for the Village Hall).

Arrangements for 80th Anniversary of VE Day

Final arrangements were discussed and agreed.

Village Hall lighting

Cllr Summers will replace the lighting when time permits.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Quarterly Check – internal financial controls

Cllr Murray has checked the cash book and reconciliation for the quarter ended 31 March 2025 and confirmed that all is correct.

Annual Audit

The clerk had sent the year-end accounts to all Parish Councillors. There were no questions and these figures will be used for completion of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).

Email addresses for Parish Councillors and clerk

This item will be carried over to the next meeting.

Correspondence

There were no items.

CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

There were no items.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A member of the public commented on the poor state of Windgate Hill. It was agreed that the potholes that had not been repaired were dangerous. There were no further questions and the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

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

Tuesday, 3 June 2025

Tuesday, 1 July 2025

Tuesday, 5 August 2025

GRATITUDE

When you want to change the world!

When the world seems all a bit
mucked up,
When nothing feels quite right.
When everyone is full of gloom
And hope feels out of sight.
Stop for a moment - don't say a
word
Be calm, be still, and wait.
For in a while, you will find
You will be able to activate
your very own superpower.
With the magic of your mind,
Sit and quietly think.
Of something you are thankful
for,
Anything at all.
Something you are grateful
for,
It could be big or small.
A person who was kind to you,
A pet who makes you laugh.
A special place you feel at
peace.
The pleasure of a bubble bath.
A day out with a special friend.
A quiet night at home.
A beautiful flower.
A tiny bird.
A friendly voice on the phone.
A comfy bed.
A cup of tea.
A trip to swim in the sea.
A football match.
A book to read.

Carrots growing in a vegetable
patch.
A helping hand.
A summer breeze. A visit
from a neighbour.
A headache eased.
A teacher pleased.
A smile from a stranger.
Gratitude gives you a
superpower,
The power to change the world.
To turn a frown upside down,
To lift a low mood,
To brighten gloom,
To reveal the light in the dark.
So, let's all start.
Think of something your
grateful for,
Focus with all your heart
And feel the rise of
thankfulness
Tickle a smile in your eyes.
Practice makes perfect with
superpowers
So, practice a bit every day
And as if by magic
Your powers will grow,
Like flowers in spring,
Like spring waters flow,
So hope will colour the world
you know
And the power will never run
dry.



Luppitt Commons Limited

Report on the AGM held Tuesday 18 March 2025

The meeting began by remembering the significant contribution of the late Chris Charlton who served as Chairman and Trustee from 2005 to 2013.

Following significant legal work over the past three years, including a complicated High Court process, the Luppitt Commons Trust (established in May 1960 to purchase the freehold title of the Commons) has been replaced by Luppitt Commons Limited (“LCL”), a Company Limited by Guarantee. LCL has no shareholders but is a membership company, with members defined as those commoners having their common rights formerly recorded on register CL41 with the County Solicitor’s Office at Devon County Council. It has a 12 person Board of Directors drawn from its members. LCL cannot pay dividends or distribute assets to its members.

LCL now holds the freehold title for the Commons under two title deeds (DN496960 for Hense Moor and part of Luppitt Common and DN498436 for Hartridge and part of Luppitt Common). LCL is registered at Companies House (company number 14527103) and will file, among other things, a publicly available balance sheet each year.

The rules and procedures of the Trust have been copied over into the articles of association of LCL. As before, the Board of Directors (formerly the “Trustees Committee”) has oversight of all legal and financial matters, and the management of Hense Moor Common. The Management Committee (formerly the “Management Committee”) continues its important role in managing the “farmed” areas of the Commons (most of Luppitt Common and the top plateau on Hartridge). As before under the Trust, the articles of association of LCL require the Commons to be managed for the benefit of all Commoners. Day to day therefore, very little has changed, other than moving the year end to December 31st and the AGM to March each year.

During 2024, **Hense Moor** has continued to be managed under the terms of the 10-year Countryside Stewardship (“CS”) Agreement. We have continued the program of bracken and gorse topping, and scrub clearance on the mires. We have worked with the Butterly Conservation Trust to create a corridor to link up isolated mire habitats. We were awarded a FiPL grant for No-Fence cattle collars, using GPS to better manage livestock. Our ecological advisors estimate that conservation cattle grazing accounts for 50% of the beneficial impact to improve the condition of Hense Moor.

In addition, we continue to have two areas where wild beavers are very active. Furthermore, Gloucester University have been studying carnivorous plants in the mires, and the British Bryological Society have been surveying mosses. The 2-year hydrological study by the West Country Rivers Trust is coming to an end, and their remote monitoring equipment will be removed during 2025.

On **Hartridge** we were awarded a FiPL grant to improve the popular circular walk around the perimeter, including new pedestrian gates, track improvements and resurfacing the parking area. On **Luppitt Common** we have continued the ongoing program to replace existing fencing, and undertaken further work to fell diseased ash trees alongside the main road.

For the financial year ending 31 December 2024, LCL derived 57% of its income from Countryside Stewardship, and 43% from other sources. The publicly available year-end balance sheet values Luppitt Commons at £450,000 (or £812 per acre). Cash and investments total £196,183, although the vast majority of this (£132,461) is already allocated for future works. This is because we are paid in advance under our long-term CS agreement.

The Commons are an important part of the Luppitt Landscape Partnership ("LLP"), and LCL is the financial guarantor for the LLP. The LLP will offer us an opportunity to expand the program of conservation work on Hense Moor and along the slopes of Hartridge. Longer term, we hope to include public access improvements, perhaps including an additional circular walk. During 2024 we were once again prevented from applying for SFI on Luppitt Common and the top of Hartridge due to the unhelpful policies of the current Government, which proved very disappointing. SFI has now been suspended, but we hope that the LLP will offer an alternative route for these farmed sections of the Commons for 2026 and beyond.

Two additional topics were raised at this AGM. First, the Chairman suggested we publish an "AGM summary" in the Luppitt Packet each year. All in favour and hence this article as the first such summary. Second, a few days prior to the AGM, the Parish Council requested permission for a VE day event to be held on Hartridge during early May, with a bonfire and fireworks. Concerns were expressed by those present, including the impact on ground nesting birds and the impact on hay spots. A commoner present at the AGM made a proposal to refuse permission, and it was carried by majority vote.

***Gavin Brake, Chairman of the Board of Directors,
Luppitt Commons Limited***

ANSWERS TO MAY PUZZLE



- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. MAGPIE MAGGIE | 11. GRASS GLASS |
| 2. DITCH PITCH | 12. COLLAR CELLAR |
| 3. PLUTO PLATO | 13. JIGGLE JINGLE |
| 4. ALTER AFTER | 14. HEAVY HEAVE |
| 5. FARGO CARGO | 15. CARBON CARTON |
| 6. EMBER AMBER | 16. PUPPY POPPY |
| 7. STEADY STEAMY | 17. SENIOR SENSOR |
| 8. RECENT RELENT | 18. GREEN GREEK |
| 9. CROAK CROCK | 19. PARCH PATCH |
| 10. ELDER ODDER | 20. SABER SOB |

GETTING OLD IS NOT FOR WIMPS!

(with apologies to Winston C.)

Are your toes far away
And your knees stiff and cold?
Are stairs getting steeper
And to cook is a bore?

It's called getting old
So, keep b****ring on!

Do the newsreaders mumble
So you can't hear their words?
Is your calendar full
Of appointments with docs?

It's called getting old
So, keep b****ring on!

Are you snoozing at two
Or you're in bed by ten?
Does the dog sleep all day
And not want to go out?

It's called getting old
So, keep b****ring on!

Does the old man get cross
For no reason at all?
And what of the wife
Who keeps losing her keys?

It's called getting old
So, keep b****ring on!

And if the bell's tolling
Just say you're not ready!
Tell them you're young
And keep b****ring on!

Nigel Hurst





**LUPPITT
VILLAGE**

**FLOWER
SHOW &
FETE**

**Saturday 9th August,
2:00 pm - Free Entry**

Bouncy Castle, Bar, Cream
Teas, Ices, Stalls, Games!

Flower Show entry forms to Sue Wilson, or Friday /
Saturday Coffee Mornings at the Village Hall.

THE MANY BENEFITS OF WILD GARLIC



Wild Garlic thrives in damp, cool, deciduous woodlands and sheltered hedgerows, and is at its peak in May and June. So right now, you should see, and smell, carpets of it around the Parish or even in your own garden. Not everyone loves it because it does have a very strong garlicky

smell, but it is a versatile and delicious food ingredient, being full of vitamins and minerals, plus it is known to have antibiotic and anti-inflammatory properties.

The leaves are the most useful part of the plant in cookery, but the delicate flowers, if you catch them in full bloom, make very pretty decorations for dishes, or you can dip them in tempura batter and quickly deep fry them for a nutritious crunchy snack.

One of my favourite recipes is **Wild Garlic Naans** – a quick and easy alternative to shop bought flatbreads. Delicious served warm with your chosen topping, or torn apart and dipped in bowls of stew, soup or curry.

You need 80g of blanched wild garlic leaves, patted dry and chopped, 400g self raising flour, 1tsp black onion seeds and 240g full fat yogurt.



Add the flour, seeds, yogurt and some seasoning to a bowl and add enough water to bring it together as a rough dough. Add the chopped wild garlic and knead it all for a couple of minutes to form a smooth dough. Cover the bowl with clingwrap and

leave in the fridge for an hour. Then take it out, divide it into 6 balls and roll them out to about the thickness of a pound coin. Heat a non-stick frying pan – leave it dry – and add the naans one by one, allowing them to colour on one side and puff up slightly, then flip them to cook on the other side. They should take no more than a minute or so. You can serve them straight way, brushed with butter or olive oil, or let them cool, and when you want to eat them, just reheat them briefly in the oven.



You could also serve them with **Wild Garlic and Potato Soup** – a savoury and inexpensive soup full of goodness with the punchy taste of wild garlic.

Just saute one chopped onion in oil until softened, then add 600g of peeled and diced potatoes. Toss in the oil for a minute or two then add 1 litre of vegetable

stock. Simmer for about 20 minutes until the potatoes are soft, then stir in 70g of chopped wild garlic leaves. Blitz in a blender and reheat, adding some seasoning. You can garnish the soup with a swirl of double cream, some more chopped wild garlic and some wild garlic flowers.

JUNE PUZZLE

What do these words have in common?

1. BANANA
2. DRESSER
3. GRAMMAR
4. POTATO
5. REVIVE
6. UNEVEN
7. ASSESS



Would you like to join our team?

The established team who work closely together to produce the Luppitt Packet are facing a few challenges because of other calls on the existing editors' time but are keen to make sure The Packet continues to be produced every month.



So we are looking for someone who could join us to help with planning and producing editorials. Some previous writing experience would be welcomed. Knowledge of, or a desire to learn the publishing software and/or ability to structure and update a simple web site used for Packet production would be an added bonus.



We are looking for someone who can commit time on a regular monthly basis and become totally integrated in the team.

In return, we can promise enjoyable bi-monthly planning meetings, usually over coffee and home made cake, planning and participation in occasional fund raising events and lots of interface with the community to gather stories for publication.

If you are interested, please message to editors@luppittpacket.co.uk and we can get together for a chat.



MUSIC AND CONVERSATION
WITH THE INSPIRATIONAL NICHOLAS MCCARTHY

**Friday 1st August ~ 6pm The Orangery @ Bridwell Park,
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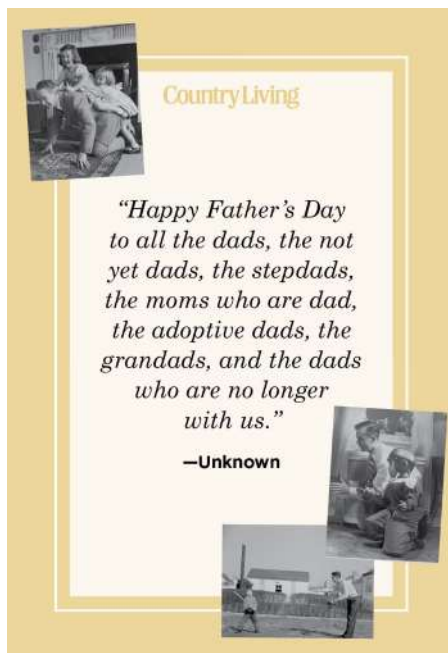
June 15th Father's Day

In UK Fathers Day wasn't widely celebrated until the latter half of the 20th century. It gained popularity most likely after World War 2. It was properly influenced by American culture and soldiers stationed UK during the war.

The British version of Fathers Day does not have the same historical roots as Mothering Sunday, an older and distinctly differently celebration.

By the 1970s, Fathers Day had become a day of recognition across the U.K. It is celebrated on the third Sunday of June. On this day fathers and father figures are honoured and celebrated with cards, gifts and special gestures of appreciation.

Of course the greatest gift we can give them if you don't live with them is a visit or just a phone call.



Upcoming Blackdown Hills Repair Cafés

Join us at our next Repair Café events:

- **27th September 2025 at Churchinford Village Hall**
10.00 - 12.45 hrs
- **22nd November 2025 at Hemyock Village Hall**
10.00 - 12.45 hrs

More info: <https://www.blackdownhills-transition.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BHEcoHub/>

Or Contact Carolyn: bhecohub@gmail.com

A Traditional Devon Recipe

How to Make Devonshire Junket - from Heather Plummer

The dessert known as junket has a rich history, evolving from a medieval French dish called 'jonquet'. It's a milk-based dessert, similar to a panna cotta, traditionally made with rennet, a milk-clotting enzyme.

In medieval England, junket, made with cream and flavored with rosewater, spices, and sugar, was a delicacy of the nobility.

The term "junket" also evolved to describe a feast or banquet, and later, a pleasurable trip or excursion, especially those paid for by someone else.

Ingredients (Serves 4)

600ml whole milk

1 tsp vanilla Paste

1 tbsp Caster sugar

1 tsp Rennet

1tbsp Brandy or Rum

¼ tsp grated nutmeg

Clotted Cream and Strawberries to serve

Method

1. Warm the milk in a saucepan until it reaches approximately body temperature – no more.
2. Stir through the caster sugar until it completely dissolves. Add the vanilla paste, brandy or rum and nutmeg.
3. Have four serving ramekins and a ladle ready at this point. Are you ready? Now add the rennet, stir through briefly and quickly but carefully ladle the mixture between the ramekins. At the point, don't touch the ramekins for at least 15 minutes, leave them exactly where they are. Allow to set at room temperature – about 3 hours.
4. To serve – you can grate over a little nutmeg, finish with a spoonful of clotted cream, or perhaps some fresh berries.



News from the Luppitt Landscape Partnership

We've a whole range of events happening this summer, giving a chance to learn and share more about the Luppitt landscape, and to take part in work to improve our understanding of our natural environment.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday 31st May

Film screening at the Village Hall: 'Beavers: The Ecosystem Engineers'

3pm to 5pm. This fascinating film explores the ecology and role of beavers in the landscape. After the film there will be a Q&A session about beavers here in the Luppitt valley, with a representative from the Devon Wildlife Trust. Light refreshments provided, plus an 'all things beaver' crafty table for the kids. No need to book.

Saturday 5th July

Family walk on Hense Moor

A walk across part of Hense Moor with ecologists Erin Reardon and George Greenshields, to enjoy some of the special plants and other wildlife of this amazing place.

Starting 1pm at the Village Hall, finishing approx. 3pm. NB: Boggy, uneven ground not really suitable for very young children. To book places please email info@luppittlandscape.org

Friday 18th July and Friday 15th August

Tea, Scones and Stories of Life in Luppitt

An opportunity to talk over tea about Luppitt's past, present and future. Share your stories, photos and memorabilia about farming, the commons, the river and other aspects of village life as part of our Oral History project.

Village Hall, 2pm to 5pm.

OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE PART IN WILDLIFE RECORDING:

During this summer and autumn there will be a number of opportunities for Luppitt residents to take part in wildlife recording activities happening through the Landscape Partnership. Dates will be confirmed nearer the time and will need to be flexible to catch good weather conditions. If you are interested in taking part in any of these sessions, please contact the LLP office on info@luppittlandscape.org and we'll put you on the list.

Late June

Involvement with the bird acoustic monitoring

This will involve training people in the use of the Merlin or Bird Track apps on their phones, and asking people to walk a defined route a few times and do their own recordings, and share the data with the project.

Early July

Butterfly recording

Opportunity to take part in walking butterfly transects to record butterfly activity at some key locations including on Hense Moor.

Late July

Involvement with static bat detector survey

Instruction in the use of bat detectors and involvement with deploying and retrieving detectors and downloading data.

September

An evening walk to monitor bats and birds of the night

This will be a one hour walk just before sunset, probably below Hartridge, involving the use of bat detectors, bird recorders, and possibly night vision cameras.

October

Wax cap walk

A chance to look for waxcap fungi, accompanied by an expert, and learn about these fascinating indicators of old pasture, which are present in great diversity in some parts of the parish.

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



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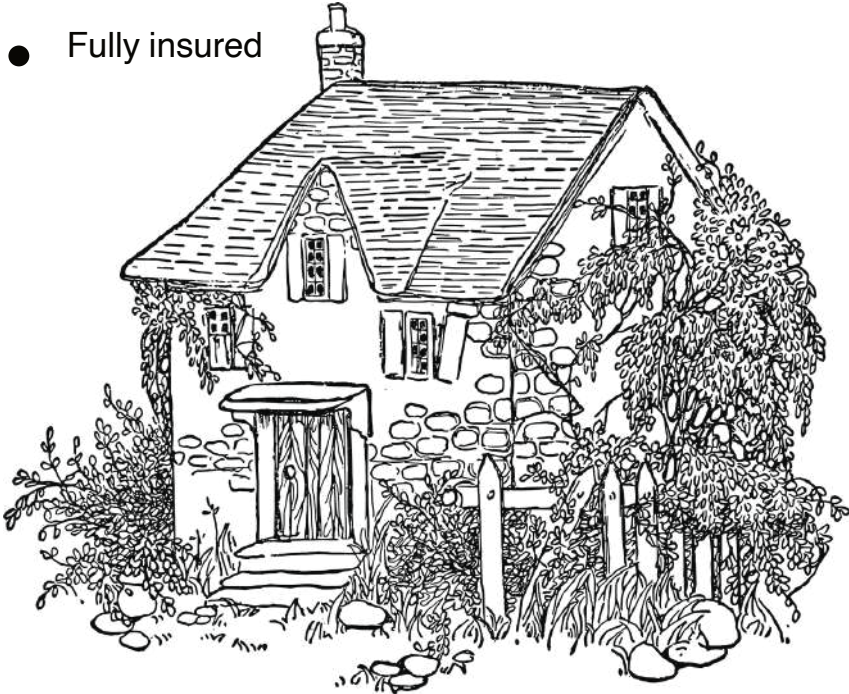
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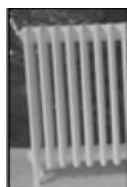
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