

Luppitt Packet
November 2025

Art by Vanessa Nancarrow



**LUPPITT
CHRISTMAS
PARTY**
Live Music
LOCAL BAND
DINNER BAR & RAFFLE
LUPPITT VILLAGE HALL
6:30 FOR 7PM
SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER
Tickets £30 per person from
Tracey Rosewell
dolishfarm@btinternet.com
or phone 891218 evenings
Book by 6th December
Places not confirmed until paid for
Please specify any dietary requirements



Quiz Night

Luppitt Village Hall

Friday 21st November

7:30 for 8:00pm

Bar and Raffle

Teams maximum 6



£7.50 per head including Supper

Names to Steve Berry: 01404 891268

(with any dietary requirements)

Or email luppittberry@gmail.com

Book by 14th November please



**SUCCESSFULLY SELLING COUNTRY
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THE LUPPITT PACKET

Welcome to the November Edition of the Luppitt Packet.

The days are getting shorter and nights more chilly - good for those who don't like the heat, not so much for us hot house flowers!



As anticipated in the run up to Christmas, there are lots of activities and invitations to events in this issue - make sure you take a look and book your places soon! There are two Christmas parties, one for children on the 14th December and one for the rest of us the day before. Essential to get your tickets in advance.

In addition, there are some interesting articles as well as tasty recipes for heartwarming winter food. Of course there is Guy Fawkes on the 5th as well as the Tar Barrels event in Ottery St Mary on the same day. Please make sure you observe safety if you are attending.

Look out for the pantomimes which are back! Our very own Luppitt Players are planning for their's in February and Dunkeswell is showing Red Riding Hood in December.

Any children out there please remember to get your entries into our front cover competition by November 7th - all entries will be shown inside the December/January edition as well as the winner being on the front cover.

On a more serious note, we take time to remember those fallen on Remembrance Day 11th November with the Church Service taking place on the 9th.

Christine Ryder, Michele Turner and the Luppitt Packet team

COPY DATE FOR THE LUPPITT PACKET DECEMBER/JANUARY ISSUE IS

19 November 2025 TO editors@luppittpacket.co.uk

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Luppitt Entertainments Committee Events

Events coming up:

Friday 21st November: Quiz Night

Saturday 13th December: Christmas Party

Please note earlier start time this year: 6:30 for 7:00pm.

*** Be sure to book by 6th December ***

Save the Dates!

**Monday 5th January 2026, 10:15am for 10:30am
Kids Movies**

**Saturday 28th February 2026, 7:30pm
Skittles Night**

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
***Early opening on Fridays at 6pm
(for a trial period)***

Church Cleaning and Flower Rota 2025

1 November	Pat Bussey
8 November	Mary Joyce and Pearl Pulman
15 November	Mary Hill
22 November	Sue Piechowiak
29 November	Jean Gardiner and Joy Tofts

6 December	Pat Bussey
13 December	Mary Joyce and Pearl Pulman
20 December	Mary Hill
	Christmas decorations - all
27 December	Sue Piechowiak

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
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		07748 780096
Clerk	Rosalind Buxton	01404 861565
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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)

Closure of Luppitt Commons to Public Access

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

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

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th November 2025

4th, 11th, 18th December 2025

8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th January 2026

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

Further information about open access land can be found on the following Natural England website; www.naturalengland.org.uk/openaccess

Luppitt Commons Ltd

An Invitation from Tracey Rosewell

The Village Hall Management Committee is looking for more members to help maintain the Hall.

Are you bright and interested in keeping this amenity going for the benefit of the community?

Do you have any special skills like carpentry or interior decorating or any ideas to make the hall a more interesting place for parishioners?

*If so please contact me on 01404 891218
or attend our AGM on Tuesday, 18th November 2025
at 7.30pm.*



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

Services

02 Nov	03:00 PM	Afternoon Tea Church	Rev J Penn
09 Nov	10:50 AM	Remembrance	Rev N Candellent
16 Nov	11:00 AM	Holy Communion	Rev N Candellent
23 Nov	10:30 AM for 11:00 AM	Breakfast Church	Lay Led

Mission community services in Dunkeswell

07 Nov	04:00 PM	Friday @4 in the Throgmorton Hall	
30 Nov	02:30 PM	Advent Songs of Praise	Sara Bevan
		St. Nicholas Church	



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

Afternoon Tea Church...

Every 1st Friday of the month
Sunday 2nd November @ 3pm
Luppitt Village Hall



Breakfast Church...

Every 4th Friday of the month
Sunday 26th November
10am for @ 10.30am
Luppitt Village Hall



Rev Nigel writes...

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Church service pattern changes

From November, St Mary's Luppitt have some Sunday service changes. Our 1st Sunday 9 30 BCP service will be replaced by 'afternoon Tea church' in the village hall starting on 2nd November. This is an informal gathering for all ages. Please do join us if you are able to. For those who still value the traditional service, our friends at Sheldon Church invite you to join them each 1st Sunday for their BCP service which starts at 9 30am. We also will be having a breakfast church each 4th Sunday in the Village hall – join us for a morning of fellowship and breakfast!

Remembrance Sunday on the 9th November, Luppitt Church 11am (gathering outside at the memorial from 10 45am)

Do join us as we remember those who gave their lives as they fought for freedom and justice. Around this time of year, TV, radio and newspapers pay special attention to the stories of those who fought during wars and conflicts, a powerful reminder of the sacrifice that was given by so many to strive for peace.

Prayer week...

We begin November as we did last year with a focus on prayer. As I have said before on these pages, all of our churches are open each day to be used for quiet contemplation, prayer or a place to just 'be'. Do join us for a week our prayer, either from home or by visiting the church. Each day there will be a special focus.

Monday 3rd Nov: Educational Institutions - Schools, colleges and universities - Teachers, staff, students and parents,

Tuesday 4th Nov: Health and Emergency Services and personnel

Wednesday 5th Nov: Those who serve the community in local government and councils; Each of our six Churches and parishes in the Dunkeswell Mission Community; its leaders, both ordained and lay, our Archdeacon, Rural Dean and Bishops,

Thursday 6th Nov: For God's creation, the world we live in and for all who suffer as a result of conflict or natural or manmade disaster.

Friday 7th Nov: For us all; family, friends, neighbours and our farming Community

Midday prayer...

Each day during this week of prayer, we invite you to stop what you are doing at midday and pause for thought and prayer. However long you have, please do join with many others who will be doing the same.

Advent songs of Praise 2.30pm 30th November, St Nicholas Church, Dunkeswell

Please do join us for our joint service to celebrate the beginning of Advent and the close of our Christmas tree festival where local groups will have decorated the church with Christmas trees. There are also a series of events on Friday 28th and Saturday 29th. See this magazine for further details.

Sara Bevan our new 'Licensed Lay Minister' (Reader)

Congratulations to Sara Bevan, who was licensed as a Lay minister by Bishop Moira at Exeter Cathedral on the 4th October. Sara will serve across all our Churches in the Dunkeswell Mission Community alongside her work as the administrator. Please do pray for Sara in this exciting new season for her and for our community of churches.....



Every blessing

Rev Nigel Candellent
Dunkeswell Mission Community



Join us for a creative, crafty Christmas sale at the
Rectory on Sat 6th Dec 2 til 5pm.

Wonderful handmade gifts, Christmas cakes,
wreaths, festive refreshments and
Santa will be in his grotto !!

Look forward to seeing you.

The Luppitt Players
Present



The Good, The Bad And The Ugly Sisters

By Andrew Yates

A pantomime romp through the Wild West!

12th, 13th & 14th FEBRUARY 2026

7:30pm at Luppitt Village Hall

Tickets:- Adults £10; Seniors £8; Under 16's £5

Box Office: 01404 891268

All profits will be shared to support two local charities.

Parental Minds & Hospiscare

GARDEN JOTTINGS

This morning the weather's wet and chilly and windy too. Oak leaves are flying around. You can hear acorns hitting the ground and clattering on the old hen run roof. I went down to check if any peanuts had gone overnight. They are going only very slowly. Is it mice that's eating them? Perhaps an immigrant squirrel pops across every so often. There are lots of apples lying around to be picked up later.

One of the border plants in the front is a delphinium, traditionally tall spikes of blue in early summer, much loved by enthusiasts for its various shapes and shades. Nowadays delphiniums have moved into pinks and whites. Books advise cutting the stems down after flowering so that they can flower again in autumn. None of mine have ever done this, although Jacki has one now in flower under the apple tree.



An unusual flower for October now out among the nerines in the poly is a clump of snowdrops. I don't remember where I got them from. I think they may be native to Morocco.



At one time I had them in the garden, but they do much better in the poly.

The solitary pear I mentioned last month turned out to be much better eating than expected. I left it in the sun on a window ledge for a few days before trying it.

David Street

BIG BREAKFAST raises £2,350 for Parental Minds CIC



Thank you so much for everyone who helped with the big breakfast, for donating both money and food items.

My friends and children did an absolutely amazing job, and supported me along the way. The kitchen was run efficiently and turned out an amazing breakfast. The raffle had 45 fantastic prizes

with over 20 vouchers being part of it. Thank you to everyone who donated.



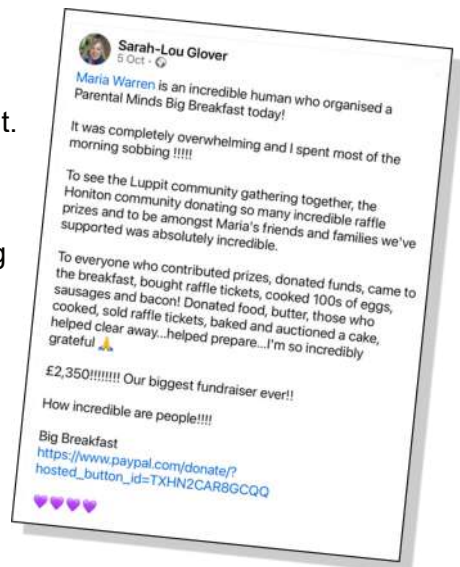
I want to say a big thank you to everyone who came to support my event, I hope you enjoyed the breakfast and my fundraiser. Without you attending it wouldn't have happened. We raised an enormous £2,350 and there is still more coming in, so it will be more than this amount.

Sarah-Lou, who started Parental Minds, has been blown away by it. Such a lot of money raised for a fantastic organisation helping parents and carers who are supporting children or their young person going through mental health.

I'm also sharing what Sarah-Lou wrote, to show how grateful she is.

Many thanks again,

Maria



Christmas Front Cover

Children's Art Competition

Design a front cover for December's Luppitt Packet

Open to all children living in Luppitt
under the age of 16

The winner will receive a £25 voucher and their entry will be on the front cover of the December issue of the Luppitt Packet



All entries must be in by November 7th

 LUPPITT
VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY
1ST
NOVEMBER
2-5PM

**FREE
CREATIVE
PRINTING
WORKSHOP**

JOIN US FOR A DROP-IN, HANDS-ON CREATIVE
PRINTING WORKSHOP WITH ARTIST EMMA MOLONY.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. HELP TURN
YOUR LUPPITT STORIES INTO A VISUAL ARTWORK

TEA & CAKE PROVIDED

**CHRISTMAS
WREATH MAKING**

Brought to you from Little Craft
& Art Club Churchinford
with Sandra & Sylvia



MONDAY,
THE 1ST OF
DECEMBER 2025
AT CHURCHINFORD
VILLAGE HALL
6.30PM TO 8.30PM
TEA & COFFEE
& SLICE OF CAKE
INCLUDED

Cost £15 £5 deposit on booking
To reserve a space, call Sylvia 07843 899982
Parking available

Brought to you by Churchinford Arts & Craft Club, a nonprofit
group run by volunteers

Clerk's report of a Meeting of Luppitt Parish Council held at Luppitt Village Hall on Tuesday, 7 October 2025 at 8 pm

Present: Cllrs Michele Turner (Chair), Martin Summers (Vice-Chair), Charles Murray, Paul Prettejohn, Brian Pulman and Andrew Tucker

Receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lindsay Hill, Susan Tucker, Colin Brown and Yehudi Levine (EDDC) and Cathy Connor (DCC). Cllr Andrew Tucker advised that he would probably be leaving before the end of the meeting.

Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 2 September 2025, were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record (proposed by Cllr Pulman and seconded by Cllr Murray).

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

PLANNING

Applications (for comment, support or objection)

There were no applications

Decisions

25/1354/FUL – Shapcombe Farm, Combe Raleigh, EX14 4UJ – general purpose agricultural building – approval with conditions

Blackdown Hills new Management Plan and review of Design Guide

- The Planning Officer at Blackdown Hills National Landscape has asked to use the photo on the front cover of our Neighbourhood Plan in their new Management Plan. The photo was taken by a parishioner, Trevor Bevan.
- The Blackdown Hills Design Guide, which was first published in March 2012, is being reviewed.
- The Government is considering weakening planning protection in National Landscapes and an open letter has been sent to the Prime Minister, drafted and signed by the National Landscapes Association and others.

REPORTS

Ward Councillor

Cllr Levine had sent a report:

- The planned new development in East Devon, Marcombe near Exeter Airport, has been included in the core programme of the Government's New Town Taskforce. Plans have been discussed in the Strategic Planning Committee.
- Nothing to report on the Local Government reorganisation.

County Councillor

Cllr Connor had sent a report:

- Options being considered on the Local Government reorganisation are outlined.
- Devon County Councillors endorse the principle of a smartphone ban in schools.
- Funds are still remaining in the Locality budget.

HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

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

- The clerk had reported inadequate signage around the road deterioration at Butkins. Highways did not accept this but did make some alterations by repositioning cones, cutting back vegetation and placing additional tape for improved visibility.
- The clerk will report potholes at Jack's House.

Parish Maintenance

Nothing to report at present.

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

Pedestrian Gate

The clerk has heard nothing in response to her request for a pedestrian gate, so will follow up.

ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Honiton Town Council meeting – English Devolution White Paper

A meeting is being held at The Beehive on Wednesday, 15 October, at 7 pm. Cllrs Turner, Summers and the clerk will attend.

Neighbourhood Plan Website

The Neighbourhood Plan website has come up for renewal. Cllr Turner proposed that it should now be allowed to lapse. Cllr Turner and the clerk will liaise to ensure that all relevant Neighbourhood Plan documents are on the Parish Council website. Cllr Andrew Tucker seconded the proposal with all in favour.

Children's Christmas Party

It was agreed to donate £175 towards the costs of the children's Christmas party.

Parish Council representative for Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Summers agreed to continue as the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Management Committee.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Parish Scheme of Allowances

After discussion, it was agreed that the clerk would request further information from EDDC.

Banking Arrangements

It was agreed that the clerk should research other banks with a view to moving the Parish Council account.

Councillor Email Addresses

The clerk will set up Cllr Summers' .gov.uk email address.

Correspondence

- The clerk has put up notices on the Village Hall notice board giving information about autumn Covid and Flu vaccination availability at Greendale and outreach clinics.
- Information from Hospiscare was noted.

CHAMAN'S DISCRETION

Cllr Turner will be unavailable for the November meeting and Cllr Summers agreed to chair the meeting in her absence.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions and the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

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

Tuesday, 4 November 2025

Tuesday, 2 December 2025



LUPPITT CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 2025



SAVE THE DATE

**14th December 11-1pm
at the Village Hall**

**Festive fun, entertainment,
Christmas competition, Prizes,
Father Christmas and hot lunch!!**

Text or email Sarah to book:
07594 701338
sarahchown@hotmail.com

November, November...

Ah yes, November. Mists and mellow fruitfulness, conkers, fireworks... November, the ninth month, except of course it isn't... the name is from the Romans, not us. How could the Romans have got it so wrong? Is it because of their curious numerals, using letters instead of proper numbers (try dividing LXIV by XVI?). Of course, the Romans didn't get it wrong; in their calendar it was the tenth month. And they did their arithmetic using an early computer – an abacus or counting frame.

Some time after the Romans left (in the fifth century) and after we generally became an Anglo-Saxon people, the month was known in Old English as *Blod Monath*. This means blood month, or perhaps month of sacrifice. Some livestock would be killed before winter, probably because there would not be enough food to sustain them, or perhaps as a sacrifice to the pagan gods in preparation for winter.

November, November, gun powder, treason and plot. These days we don't do blood sacrifices, but we do burn effigies of a man on bonfires and make lots of explosions. Thank goodness we are a civilised people: who knows what we might do otherwise?

Poor old Guy. He was only doing what he thought was right. He was tortured, and like his fellow conspirators he was sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered. He escaped the awful suffering of this hideous end, as he jumped the scaffold and broke his neck.

King James I decreed that those events on 5 November 1605 should be commemorated with bonfires. We have done so ever since.



Locally, celebrations in Bridgwater involve bonfires, fireworks and a large procession. The procession, Bridgwater Carnival, is now one of the largest illuminated events in Europe. Other towns also have them but Bridgwater is huge. The floats are high, very long, often with rotating features, and all brilliantly lit with hundreds of lights. It really is spectacular. If you have never seen it, it really is worth going. Each float is presented by a particular Carnival Club who spend thousands of hours throughout the year creating it. Each club tries to outdo the others with the extravagance of their completed float.

The fireworks part of the celebrations (in Bridgwater) are not only just ordinary fireworks. High Street is home to the Bridgwater Squibs. These are (or used to be) home-made, a kind of long lasting Roman candle on the end of a long horizontal pole. The street is lined with two rows of men facing each other each with his squib. In former times this has been the cause of injuries. (In November 1776 a man and two children were killed in a house in a gunpowder explosion. They were possibly making squibs).

Bridgwater is the largest event of its kind, so perhaps we should now look at the riskiest and most dangerous November experience. It is not suitable for small children, animals or people who are nervous in dense crowds or unhappy at being close to barely-controlled large fiery objects.



Ottery Tar Barrels event consists of teams of people running through the crowds carrying barrels which are burning fiercely. These people are called Barrel Rollers. They carry barrels of various sizes related to the carrier's age and gender. You can only be a Barrel Roller if you have definite connections with the town of Ottery St Mary. The participants are called Barrel Rollers because years ago barrels were rolled through the crowd. You might care to reflect on the dangers to the crowd of a barely controlled flaming barrel rolling amongst them.

Clearly, you should not attempt to touch or interfere with the Barrel Rollers. In previous years some people have behaved very stupidly and dangerously, resulting in short bouts of fisticuffs. One of the rules for visitors is 'Do not attempt to touch the lit barrel as it passes. You may cause yourself and others serious injury'. In 2009, 12 people were taken to hospital (many with face burns) after idiotic behaviour by a crowd member.

No one seems to know the origins of this unusual spectacle, but it seems possible that the Tar Barrels began with the gun powder plot. Ottery barrels do not contain gunpowder (!), but the event usually takes place on 5 November. Other possible origins include the fumigation of dwellings, warnings of the Spanish Armada, or to ward off evil spirits. I think I prefer the gun powder plot.

And a last thought: until 1959 it was illegal not to celebrate bonfire night.

DS

Recipes for November

As the weather gets colder and we move into the Autumn and Winter months, here are a couple of recipes which will help warm you up and use some of the produce now readily available in the shops or your own gardens.

Roast butternut squash with cranberry relish and feta

Ingredients

- 1 butternut squash, peeled and sliced
- 10 shallots, peeled and halved
- 5 rosemary sprigs
- Rapeseed oil
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the date and cranberry relish

- 1 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 60g/2¼oz dates, roughly chopped
- 100g/3½oz fresh cranberries
- 80g/2¾oz soft brown sugar
- 1 lemon, juice and zest

To serve

- 80g/2¾oz feta cheese, crumbled
- freshly chopped parsley, to garnish

Method

1. For the butternut squash, preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4.
2. Place the butternut squash slices, shallots and rosemary



on a lined baking tray. Drizzle with oil, season with salt and freshly ground black pepper and roast for about 30–35 minutes, or until golden-brown and cooked through.

3. In the meantime, to make the relish, put the red onion in a saucepan with a little oil and fry for 3–4 minutes before adding the bay leaf, cinnamon stick, dates, cranberries, 2 tablespoons of water, the sugar and lemon zest and juice (to taste). Simmer for about 6–8 minutes.
4. When the butternut and shallots are cooked, arrange them on a serving platter and spoon over some of the relish. Crumble the feta cheese on top and garnish with chopped parsley.

Curried Parsnip and Apple Soup

Ingredients

- 700g Parsnips (chopped)
- 40g Butter
- 1 tbsp Oil
- 2 Onions (chopped)
- 2 Cloves Garlic (crushed)
- 1 litre Veg Stock
- 1 Apple
- 1 tsp Ground Coriander
- 1 tsp Ground Cumin
- 6 Cardamon Pods
(remove pods and crush black seeds)
- 1 tsp Ground Turmeric
- 1 tsp Ground Ginger
- Salt and Pepper

Method

1. Heat the butter and oil in a heavy pot, cook the onions until they are soft.
2. Add the garlic and spices and cook for 2 mins
3. Add the parsnips, stock and season. Leave to simmer for about 30-40 mins or until the parsnips are soft.
4. Liquidize the soup.
5. Peel and grate the apple, add to the soup and simmer for another 2-3 mins and then serve.



Galaxy Gazing



Saturn is a gas giant and the second biggest planet in our solar system. In 2017, the Cassini spacecraft captured a final picture (using its wide angle camera) of Saturn and its ring system, before plunging into the planet's atmosphere.

The final image needed 75 pictures to complete the final photo and took nearly two hours to collect.

This second image is also Saturn and shows the Aurora Borealis on the planet. These spectacular light shows are caused by an energetic solar wind that sweeps over Saturn, much like it does on Earth. However, unlike on Earth, Saturn's auroras can only be seen in ultraviolet light and therefore are visible only from space using instruments sensitive to ultraviolet radiation.



ANSWERS TO OCTOBER PUZZLE

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Valuable | 5. Hedgehog |
| 2. Beverage | 6. Hastings |
| 3. Guernsey | 7. Film star |
| 4. Wardrobe | 8. Liberate |



Country Customs

Not that we have any neighbours acting in a strange way in Luppitt parish, but should it happen in the weeks following Samhain Eve (the Druid celebration of the dead on 31st October) then Dr Lilly's *Last Legacy* (1683) recommends the following action.

Take two horseshoes, beat them red-hot and nail one on the threshold of the door, but Quench the other in the Urine of the party bewitched: then set the urine over the fire in a pot or Pipkin and put the horseshoe into it. Make the urine boil with a little salt put onto it, and three horseshoe nails until it is almost all consumed: what is not boiled away cast into the fire. Keep then your horseshoes and nails in a clean paper or cloth and use the same manner three times. It will be the more effectual if is done at the change or full of the Moon.

Of course, if your neighbours catch you doing all that then they might consider you a bit strange. Such are the ways of folklore!

But, in this 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' (John Keats, 'To Autumn') there are a number of things to remember. Although winter doesn't officially start until 21st December, the feast of St Martin on 11th November is the traditional day to bring stock down close to the homestead and slaughter excess animals, preserving the meat for the winter.

The weather on 11th November should be watched carefully as well. Folklore states that a wind in the North West indicates a severe winter, or, if it comes from the South West, we can expect mild weather throughout the season.

On a spookier note (as though this time of year isn't spooky enough already) if you stand at the back of the parish church on this day and look down at the congregation, then you will see the aura of those that will pass over before next Martinmas.

Halloween Quiz



1. What is a group of witches called?
2. a pumpkin a fruit or vegetable?
3. Which animal is considered to bring bad luck on halloween?
4. In which Shakespeare play do witches say 'double double toil and trouble'?
5. Which famous magician died on halloween in 1926?
6. The Bunyip is a legendary monster in which culture?
7. What does the grim reaper carry?
8. From which region of the world do pumpkins originate?
9. In what year did Starbucks first release the Pumpkin Spice Latte?



10. If you were born on halloween what star sign would you be?
11. Halloween is celebrated the night before which day?
12. Do pumpkins grow on bushes, stalks or vines?
13. The Pendle Witch trials took place in which English county?
14. In which us state is it illegal to dress as a nun or priest on halloween? which country celebrates the Day of the Dead?
15. What was the first name of Dr. Frankenstien?
16. What was the vegetable first used to carve Jack-o-lanterns before pumpkins?
17. In the Sabrina the Teenage Witch what was the name of Sabrinas pet cat?
18. Bobbing for apples originates from which ancient civilisation?
19. According to the song, which family were ,creepy, kooky, mysterious and spooky?
20. In the movie E.T. , what did E.T. dress as for halloween?

Día De Muertos or Day of the Dead

Not to be confused with our well known Halloween celebrations, Day of the Dead, or *Día de Muertos*, is traditionally celebrated from November 1–2, and it's a time when Mexicans and other Latin Americans come together to honour loved ones who have died.



Día de Muertos is a natural merging and blending of Indigenous and European cultures and religious beliefs. The celebration derives from the feast for Mictecacihuatl, the Aztec goddess of death. According to Aztec mythology, Mictecacihuatl was just a baby when she was sacrificed to the gods, but she grew to adulthood in the land of Mictlan, the lowest part of the underworld. Here, she married Miclantecuhltl where the pair ruled, but it was Mictecacihuatl who was tasked with guarding the bones of the deceased.



She is sometimes depicted wearing a skirt made of snakes or from flayed skin, her head with the face of a skull. She was celebrated, or rather appeased (the dead were buried with food/precious objects as gifts) over the twenty days in the ninth month of the Aztec calendar, around July and August. The festival itself involved singing and dancing, the odd blood sacrifice. However, the Spanish arrived in 1519 and destroyed the Aztec civilisation and culture.

During this time, indigenous people in Mexico would burn copal incense, make flower garlands, cook tamales, and drink masa-based beverages known as *atole*. When the Spanish arrived, they tried to convert the natives to Catholicism but failed to eradicate these traditions. So, the festivities were moved to All Saints Day and All Souls Day in early November, which is when Catholics honour the dead. Today, you'll see a lot of *Día de Muertos* altars with crosses and pictures of saints.



Today *Día de Muertos* is a holiday in Mexico and is also celebrated in many other countries such as other areas of Latin America, the United States, Philippines and UK. Its focus is honouring dead loved ones and making peace with the eventuality of death by treating it familiarly, without fear and dread.

Modern observances vary from region to region. In some rural areas, families adorn grave sites with candles, marigolds (a must have flower thought to help guide spirits), and the favourite foods of deceased relatives

in an attempt to persuade the loved ones to return for a family reunion. In urban areas, people take to the street for festive celebrations and indulge in the consumption of food and alcohol. Some wear wooden skull masks known as *calacas*. Many families build altars, called *ofrendas*, in their homes. The Ofrenda usually incorporates Mexican Marigolds (*cempasúchil*) pictures of loved ones, colourfully painted skulls (*calaveras*), food (especially a bread called *pan de muerto*), salt, candles and, in general, items connected to the people being remembered.



Five dead interesting Day of the Dead Facts

- *The Day of the Dead Parade (aka Desfile de Día de Muertos) is relatively new* Traditional Day of the Dead celebrations were family gatherings, but this has become more of a food and drink saturated community event, celebrated by anyone who fancies dressing up, or watching people dressed in a skeleton-based costume, and getting stuck into the spirit (literally) of the occasion.



- *The Mexico City parade is the largest in the world* Huge alters, massive floats, everyone dressed up (even the kids) and enjoying the last word in street parties. The highlight is the Desfile de Día de Muertos at the Paseo de la Reforma, but the parties go on across the city for days.

- *Offerings to the dead are inspired by the four elements*

And all to be placed on, or close, to the alter. Fire in the form of candles; water filled in pitches; earth represented by food; wind signified by delicate paper banners called *papel picado*, decorated with cut-out patterns to allow the souls of the dead to pass.

- *The archetypical Day the Dead skull was invented in 1910, but not for Day of the Dead*

Mexican illustrator/satirist Jose Guadalupe Posada created *La Catrina*, a slang word for the rich, to criticise the elite for dumbing down Mexican culture by appropriating European customs. The skull represents none other than Mictecacihuatl but, in the original illustration, she's wearing European-style headgear.

- *Sugar Skulls (calaveras de azúcar) are made from sugar*

Okay, that fact is hardly going to set the world on fire, but there is more to them than just tooth decay. They represent death but act as a reminder that death needn't be bitter. Also, they are Spanish in origin, designed to replace actual skulls used by indigenous Mexicans back in the day.

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Stir-up Sunday



Although these days it is more common to get a shop-bought Christmas Pudding (or opt for something different on Christmas Day), for centuries it was the tradition to make your own and families would gather to do so on the last Sunday before Advent, known as 'Stir-up Sunday'. The name originates not from the stirring of the pudding, but from the collect, or short prayer, for the day in the Book of Common Prayer: *"Stir up, we beseech thee, oh Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."*



It was common for all family members to stir the pudding ingredients, and this was done from east to west to honour the journey of the Magi. The ritual was also thought to bring the family luck in the coming year and from there originated the idea of adding a silver coin to bring the finder even more good luck (or alternatively a broken tooth if you weren't careful!). The recipe also called for thirteen different ingredients, to represent Jesus Christ and the disciples. The sprig of holly we place on the top of the pudding before setting fire to it, is not

(unlike many of our Christmas traditions) a reinterpretation of pagan rituals, but is actually to symbolise Jesus' crown of thorns.

'Stir-up Sunday' this year will fall on Sunday 23rd November, which will give you a month of feeding your pudding with brandy, or some other tipple, in order to have it ready for Christmas Day. If you make an extra pudding, the alcohol will help preserve it and it will happily mature until next year, as long as you keep it in a cool, dark place.

It is commonly believed that many of our Christmas traditions were introduced to Britain by Prince Albert. Certainly, he is credited with making the decorated Christmas tree popular, as it was very much a tradition in his native Germany. In reality it was another German consort, Queen Charlotte, wife of George III, who first introduced the Christmas tree as we know it, when she held a party for children at Queen's Lodge, Windsor, in 1800.

Likewise, the tradition of the Christmas pudding was said to have been popularised by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, although an earlier version was brought over from Hanover in 1714 by George I, known as the 'pudding king'. However, like all these things, the Christmas pudding has much earlier origins in this country and has evolved over many centuries.



In the late 14th century we would have been eating a pottage, or thick broth, including raisins and other dried fruit, spices and wine and thickened with breadcrumbs or ground almonds. In the same way that mincemeat originally included minced beef or mutton, this pudding often included meat, or at least stock.

The original 'figgy pudding' was almost unrecognisable when compared with the modern Christmas pudding and was served at the start of the meal, rather than the end. This medieval recipe was published in *The Form of Cury* around 1392; the book was thought to have been compiled by the master cooks of King Richard II.

'Take almaundes blanchēd, grynde hem and drawe hem up with watr and wyne: quartr fygur, hole raisouns. cast perto powdour gyngur and hony clarified, seeth it well & salt it, and serue forth.'

The use of fygur, or figs, in the list of ingredients may be misleading, as that and plum were more generic terms for dried fruit. However, the fact that they were quartered does suggest that actual figs may have been included in this recipe.

It was not until the end of the 17th century that the pottage took on a more solid appearance. It was served like a porridge or cooked inside a skin, like a sausage. It was still served as a starter or with the main meal, having been cooked under a roasting joint.

If you don't fancy the sound of that, but would like to make your own Christmas Pudding this year and don't have an old family recipe, you might like to try the one that follows. It may seem like a lot of ingredients, but it is very simple to make...

CHRISTMAS PUDDING



Ingredients

- 50g self-raising flour
- 175g plain flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp grated nutmeg
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- 50g ground almonds
- 250g shredded suet (vegetable is fine if you prefer)
- 225g dark muscovado sugar
- 100g dry white breadcrumbs
- 1.5kg mixed dried fruit
- 1tbsp black treacle
- Finely grated zest and juice of a lemon
- Finely grated zest of an orange
- 1 medium carrot, peeled and finely grated
- 1 medium cooking apple, peeled and grated
- 200g pecan nuts, roughly chopped
- 2 tbsp brandy or rum
- 150ml dark ale or stout
- 4 large eggs, beaten
- Butter and flour for greasing the basins

Method

1. Sift flour and spices into a large bowl
2. Stir in the almonds, suet, sugar and breadcrumbs and mix well
3. Add the remaining ingredients, mixing well after each addition
4. Cover with cling film and leave in the fridge or a cool place, for at least 24 hours, stirring a few times
5. Pack the mixture into basins
6. Top the surface with a circle of greaseproof paper, cover with baking parchment or foil, fold under the edge and secure with string
7. Steam over boiling water for 6 hours, occasionally topping up the water
8. Leave to cool and then replace the paper and parchment/foil. Store in a cool, dark place

On Christmas Day steam for about 1 ½ hours, or microwave for about 6 minutes on high (but not if you have covered it with tin foil!). Check it is hot by inserting a metal skewer into the centre for a couple of seconds – it should feel piping hot.

Top with flaming brandy if you want and your choice of cream, brandy butter etc.



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Be More Kind – written and sung by Frank Turner
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwtAjv04pt8>

*History's been leaning on me lately;
I can feel the future breathing down my neck.
And all the things I thought were true
When I was young, and you were too,
Turned out to be broken,
And I don't know what comes next.
In a world that has decided that it's going to lose its mind,
Be more kind, my friends, try to be more kind.
They've started raising walls around the world now,
Like hackles raised upon a cornered cat,
On the borders, in our heads,
Between the things that can and can't be said,
We've stopped talking to each other,
And there's something wrong with that.
So before you go out searching, don't decide what you will find.
Be more kind, my friends, try to be more kind.
You should know you're not alone,
And that trouble comes, and trouble goes.
How this ends, no one knows,
So hold on tight when the wind blows.
The wind blew both of us to sand and sea,
And where the dry land stands is hard to say.
As the current drags us by the shore,
We can no longer say for sure
Who's drowning, or if they can be saved.
But when you're out there floundering, like a lighthouse I will shine.
Be more kind, my friends, try to be more kind.
Like a beacon reaching out to you and yours from me and mine,
Be more kind, my friends, try to be more kind.
In a world that has decided that it's going to lose its mind,
Be more kind, my friends, try to be more kind.*



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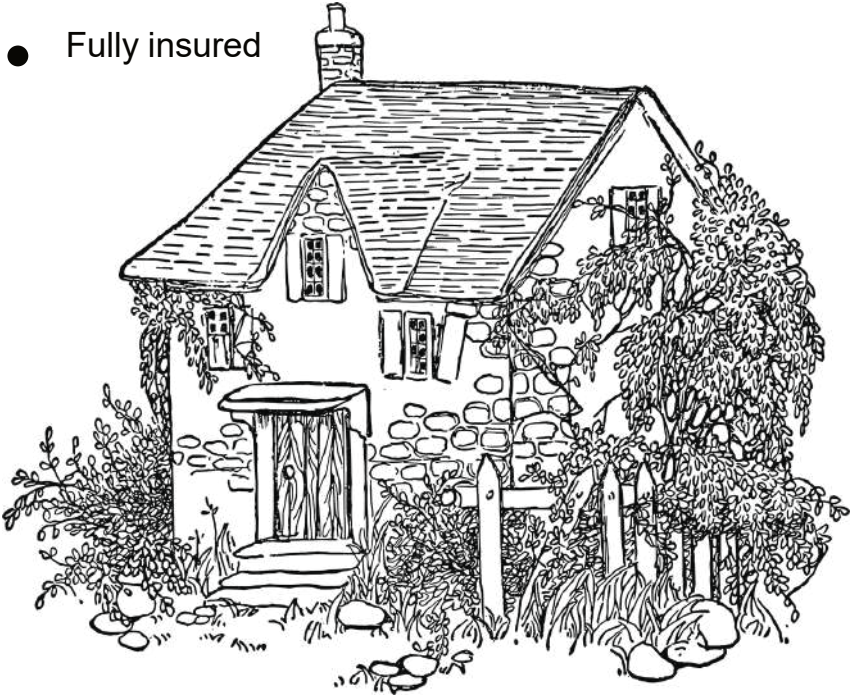
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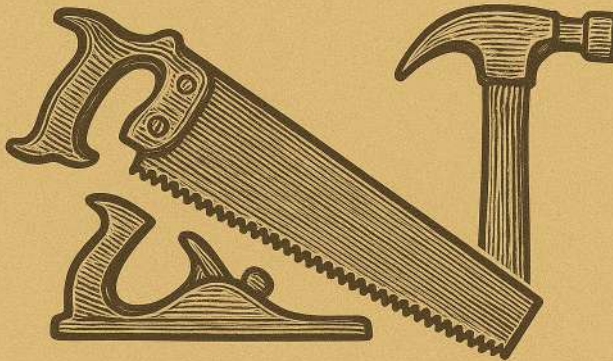
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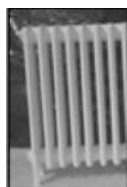
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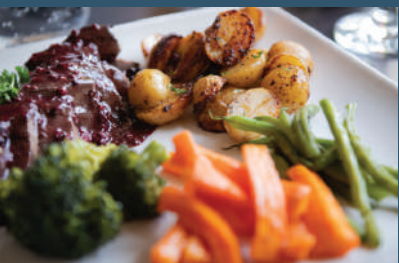
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