

#### THE LUPPITT PACKET

As we move into October, the countryside starts to take on the distinctive character of Autumn. The hedgerows have been particularly abundant this year with plenty of berries and other foraging goodies. In this issue you will find a few

recipes which make good use of these seasonal fruits - if you can beat the competing animals to collecting them!

This month is full of a number of entertainments such as Apple Day on the 4th, the Big Breakfast on the 5th and Autumn Bingo on the 24th. On Course we also have the excitement of Halloween which has some ancient roots which carry forward to current day. This provides a lot of fun and excitement to our younger community members being able to dress up and taking part in trick or treat calling around the neighbourhood.

This is also a good opportunity to say a big thank you for all of you in our community who take the time to volunteer and contribute to ensuring all these activities get delivered - your support is essential to being able to put on these events. An example of this team work can be seen in the article on our Church bells which have had some essential repairs identified and are looking for our help in raising funds to help towards the repair costs.

For all the children out there, we are running our Christmas competition again with the winning artwork being used for our December/January edition. All entries needed by 7 November so start putting your ideas together for your submissions!

Whatever you are doing over the next month, we hope you are able to attend some of these events and enjoy the start of the Autumn season.

#### Christine Ryder, Michele Turner and the Luppitt Packet team

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## Luppitt Entertainments Committee Events

Events coming up:

Saturday 4th October: Apple Day

Friday 24th October: Autumn Bingo

Save the Dates!

Friday 21st November: Quiz N
\*\*\* Note change of date! \*\*\* 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

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

Early opening on Fridays at 6pm

(for a trial period)

#### **Church Cleaning and Flower Rota 2025**

Pat Bussey, Mary Joyce and Pearl Pulman 4 October

11 October Mary Hill

Sue Piechowiak 18 October

25 October Jean Gardiner and Jov Tofts

1 November Pat Bussev

Mary Joyce and Pearl Pulman 8 November

15 November Mary Hill

22 November Sue Piechowiak

Jean Gardiner and Joy Tofts 29 November

#### 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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Village Hall EX14 4RT Lowmans Farm, EX14 4TX (near Red Doors)

#### **GARDEN JOTTINGS**

Not so long ago Catkins lawns were looking pale and yellow. Drought was creeping about. In the ground under the oak long cracks were appearing. The annual leaf sweeping ritual had started early. Everywhere there were fallen leaves, yellow and orange and red. But now rain has arrived. The lawns are showing green. Leaves have to be swept up in mud, and there are fallen apples under their trees.



Something else has happened too. Our squirrels have gone. For thirty years squirrels have run about the oaks and the cherry tree rattling their peanut box as they lift the lid. Now we've plenty of peanuts and acorns too but no squirrels to eat them. Have they

packed their bags for pastures new? Maybe there's a better meal elsewhere.

Now there's plenty of water in the ground. Autumn growth is well underway. Cyclamen have opened red, pink and white

blooms. Small orange chrysanthemums grown in pots, yellow rudbeckias and low growing Michaelmas daisies are all out together. Leycesteria shrubs are providing plenty of purple berries for the birds. Hazels however usually very fruitful in September are doing poorly this year. In the poly



tomatoes are over and eaten. Aubergines are still not quite ready even in warm sunshine.

And disaster – our sole, solitary pear, not yet quite ripe, has been blown off. There it is lying on the ground.

**David Street** 



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

#### **Services**

03 Oct 04:00 PM Friday @ 4, Throgmorton Hall Lay Led
05 Oct 09:30 AM Holy Communion BCP Rev J Penn
12 Oct 11:00 AM Holly Communion CW Rev N Candelent
19 Oct 11:00 AM Morning Worship Lay Led

26 Oct 04:00 PM Remembering Loved Ones Rev N Candelent

# 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 14<sup>th</sup> November please

#### THE EXETER WHITE WITCH

White witches practised healing and were respected by many people during the nineteenth century. The White Witch of Exeter was a position not a character, usually a man and several of them were members of the Tuckett family as witches' skills were considered to be genetic.

Robert Tuckett, a herbal doctor lived in Bartholomew Street, Exeter in 1828. He was renowned for healing the broken arm of a girl sending her home with a charm in a velvet bag (in this case a toad's leg). The magic lived on, for years later she gave birth to her seventh daughter. The seventh child was often believed to be lucky or magical at that time and the baby had the power to treat scrofula (also known as the king's evil or TB of the lymph nodes in the neck) just by being touched!

Robert's son James became the next white witch and had a practice at 44 Bartholomew Street, at the Botanical Hall. He specialised in curing livestock which had been 'overlooked; this meant they had been given 'the evil eye 'by somebody who meant to cause harm. His cures involved pins or thorns stuck in various items, powders – mainly clay and salt, prayers, religious readings, and ritual. He held



appointments at the hall as well. Clients would pay £5 upfront for a visit! A richly liveried servant would greet visitors and ascertain what their problem was. He would then use a system

of bell pulls which would act as a code to Mr Tuckett who would then appear and surprise his clients by telling them that he knew exactly what troubled them.

James had a handsome array of spell books and one day a servant by the name of Charlotte Heard stole one of the books as she was keen to take advantage of his lucrative business. After she left his employment, she became a fortune teller and lent the book to a client telling her that she would be unable to understand the language of the spell in the book, as only a scholar like herself could make sense of it. The book was to be wrapped in a pair of stockings and locked in a box. Once the spell had worked it was to be returned to the fortune teller. Unfortunately, the book did not contain a spell. It was Homer's liad and written in Greek!

George Thomas, a herbalist who attended to cattle followed, and in 1861 astrologer Henry Cox made a universal ointment that became very popular. Both of them lived in Bartholomew Street and used the Tuckett name to advertise their remedies.

George's son William Henry Thomas took on his father's practice. His speciality was 'Thomas Late Tuckett's Celebrated Worm Cakes.' He would often demand to stay for several nights on farms where livestock had been overlooked and insisted that he could only eat beef whilst he was there! A nice little business! He earnt about £300 a year (£31,600 in today's money). By this time, the authorities and commentators were becoming more cynical about this 'Hocus Pokus' and in 1903 his premises were raided. He was charged with defrauding several people to which he pleaded guilty.

The last known Exeter White Witch was a woman who visited a farmer near Ilfracombe in 1907, He believed himself to have been overlooked after three of his horses died. She confirmed that he had indeed been **BEWITCHED**.

## An Invitation from Tracey Rosewell

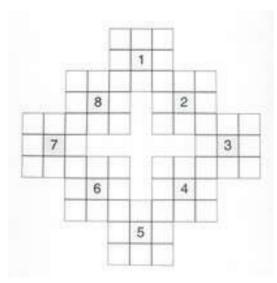
The Village Hall Management Committee is looking for more members to help maintain the Hall.

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, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.30pm.

## **OCTOBER PUZZLE**





#### **OCTET**

Solve the clues and write each eightletter answer clockwise around the appropriate number 1 to 8. You have to decide the starting point for each answer.

- 1. Of great worth
- 2. Any drink
- 3. Channel Island
- 4. Cupboard for storing clothes
- 5. Prickly creature
- 6. Battle of 1066
- 7. Move idol (4,4)
- 8. Set free

### **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:

2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> 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; <a href="https://www.naturalengland.org.uk/openaccess">www.naturalengland.org.uk/openaccess</a>

**Luppitt Commons Ltd** 

#### CHARGES FOR LUPPITT VILLAGE HALL HIRE

#### Effective from 1<sup>St</sup> October 2025

Hall Hire per hour (To include light use of the kitchen Tea/Coffee preparation)	£12.00
Hall Hire per hour (To include full use of the kitchen)	£18.00
Hall Hire per hour (To include full use of kitchen and games room)	£24.00
Games Room only per hour (To include light kitchen use for drinks)	£10.00
Meeting Room hire – one off price	£10.00
All Day Hire/Weddings/Events POA	
Soft Play Equipment Hire – per session	£15.00

25% discount on above charges to parishioners and church

Please ring the bookings secretary **Mrs Jean Hooper 01404 892969** if you would like to book or have any questions.

# **UPOTTERY** PRIMARY SCHO

#### **AUTUMN 2025**

#### **EXCITED FOR THE YEAR AHEAD!**

We are delighted to be back into the normal routines of school life here at Uppottery Primary, and we are looking forward with real excitement to the year ahead. The school is in a wonderful place right now, thriving as part of the Devon Moors Federation, whose support is invaluable to us.

We are immensely proud of our fantastic school community and the strong partnerships that make such a difference to our children. In particular, our Parent Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) has been truly remarkable. With the dedication of parents such as Claire Crabb, Amy Tucker, and many others, the PTFA has raised vital funds to support both learning and enrichment opportunities for our pupils. Their contributions have been transformational. Highlights include a polytunnel, which has been successfully woven into our curriculum, providing hands-on learning opportunities in science and sustainability. The PTFA has also funded memorable trips and experiences that enrich our children's education beyond the classroom. Most recently, they have enabled us to purchase a large number of Chromebooks, enhancing digital learning and ensuring our pupils have access to the very best resources.

The summer term was a truly special one for our children. They delivered a fantastic performance of Olive with a Twist, which was enjoyed by families and staff alike. Pupils also visited the Science Museum in Bristol, took part in a wonderful Sports Day, and celebrated together at our Summer Fayre. These events were a perfect reminder of the joy and community spirit that makes Uppottery so unique.

Looking ahead, we are excited about a year packed with new opportunities. Plans are already in place for trips to the Eden Project, Farm Wise, and the theatre, ensuring our children continue to experience a wide range of enrichment activities alongside their classroom learning.

We would also like to formally introduce Mrs Erin Reed to our teaching staff. She is already proving to be a wonderful addition to the team, and we are delighted to welcome her to the Uppottery family. At the same time, we would like to thank Mrs Hawkins for the fantastic work she continues to do with the children in the library - a space that inspires a love of reading and supports learning across the school.

At Uppottery, we believe in giving every child the opportunity to flourish both academically and personally. With the ongoing support of our community, parents, and the Federation, we are confident this year will be one of growth, joy, and achievement for all.

Tom Pettifer Head of School, Uppottery Primary School



#### Rev Nigel writes...

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...

Ecclesiastes 3:1

I don't know about you but it has definitely felt like we are entering into autumn. The nights are beginning to get shorter and the leaves begin to drop in great number as we enter into the next season. As I write this, we are preparing for the Harvest season where we give thanks for all the good gifts that God has given us. I do hope that you have been able to go along to one of the Harvest festivals in your community and maybe followed it up with a lunch or supper? Do see the rota for October where a few churches still have their Harvest service in October. Please do join us if you are able to.

This sense of new season has been very similar for us as well as a community of churches. We are blessed by having a wide variety of services spread across our six parish churches at different times on a Sunday and also in our village halls. We continue to explore how we can be creative in our service offer.

We also have interaction with each of our three Primary schools which are in our communities. We look forward to continuing to build our relationships with those as we continue to look at ways to have services which involve the church community, the school and its village, not just on a Sunday! With no school at Dunkeswell, we are blessed with our school at Broadhembury where a number of the families living in Dunkeswell send their children. Our Friday@4 – which is a Messy Church style gathering every first Friday of the month, held at Throgmorton hall, is a chance for the families and the children to gather for fun activities, story, song, food and chat. You are very welcome to join us which whichever primary school or preschool your children go to.

**Rev Nigel Installation** 

On the 7<sup>th</sup> September my role as 'Priest – In Charge ' changed to 'Rector' . It was a lovely occasion where many from our community of Churches gathered at St Nicholas church. As you can see from the pictures, I was joined by my clergy colleagues, Revd Jane and Revd Peter, who I share ministry with. Archdeacon



Andrew led the service and spoke about how it is our responsibility to move forward together in faith to love and serve our communities and support each other.



Thanks to Barbara Simmons and her team who provided wonderful refreshments in the village hall afterwards

Across our Deanery a number of 'Priest – In Charge' roles have changed to 'Rector'. The title Rector has historical roots, but the main



purpose of this change of role is to gives stability to each of the different communities and allows each

set of churches to move together forward in their new season with their respective churches. For us as the Dunkeswell Mission Community, it allows us to continue our discussions and prayers about how each church can flourish individually and also as a group of churches serving our communities in the best way we can.

# <u>Licensing of Sara Bevan as a 'Licensed Lay Minister' (Reader)</u> <u>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm – Exeter Cathedral.</u>

It is also a new season for our wonderful administrator Sara Bevan, who, alongside her administration work for us in this community of Churches, has been training to become a Licensed Lay minister. I am delighted that Sara will join our ministry team and will serve across all six parishes after she is licensed. You are all invited to join Sara at the Cathedral, on this very special occasion for our Mission Community.

#### Week of Prayer - 2<sup>nd</sup> November to 9<sup>th</sup> November

We will again this year be having a week of prayer across our six churches. With a different focus each day. All details will be in next month's edition.

#### Our Churches are open!

Do remember that each of our Churches are open every day. We invite you to go in and use this very special place that many, over the centuries, have visited and worshipped in . Do come in for your own private prayer and reflection or allow it to be a place where you can find stillness and just 'be'.

Every blessing
Rev Nigel Candelent
Dunkeswell Mission Community



## Friday@4...

Throgmorton Hall, Dunkeswell
Every 1st Friday of the month
Next one: Friday 3rd October @4pm
Come and join us for...Family time - Food@4
Followed by craft/activities/fun
Followed by story time & song



Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October Luppitt Village Hall 10.30am – 12pm refreshments Free entry!

Both events are for pre school and primary school children who must be accompanied by an adult



Elgar - Serenade for Strings
Orff: Carmina Burana
Guanged for wind by Wanek
Finzi - Bagatelles for Clarinet and
Strings (Clarinet: Chris Gradwell)
Haydn - Symphony No. 96
(The Miracle)
Conductor: Walter Brewster Leader: Jane Bultz



3:00pm - Sunday 19th Oct 2025

The Feoffees Hall, Colyton EX24 6.IR

Tickets £15 (free for under 18s or students) available from www.axevaleorchestra.co.uk or scan QR code to buy.

Tickets also available on the door.





#### Clerk's report of a Meeting of Luppitt Parish Council held at Luppitt Village Hall on Tuesday, 2 September 2025 at 8 pm

**Present:** Cllrs Michele Turner (Chair), Charles Murray, Paul Prettejohn, Brian Pulman, Andrew Tucker, Susan Tucker, Colin Brown and Yehudi Levine (EDDC) and one member of the public

#### Receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Martin Summers, Lindsay Hill and Cathy Connor (DCC)

#### Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 5 August 2025, were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Pulman and seconded by Cllr Susan Tucker).

#### **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr Andrew Tucker declared an interest in the planning application at Shapcombe Farm as he carries out work there.

# Presentation by Gavin Saunders on behalf of the Luppitt Landscape Partnership

Gavin Saunders gave a presentation updating the Parish Council on the progress of the Luppitt Landscape Partnership. There are 55 members whose land covers 4,300 acres. Emphasis is on ways to improve the land, especially grade 4 land which is poor, and the quality of the River Love. There is a possibility that there could be some re-wetting of land on the springline.

Landscape Recovery is one of DEFRA's three Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes, alongside the Sustainable Farming Incentive and Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship. Together these form a key part of the Government's Agricultural Transition plan, which is moving farm support away from direct payments and towards 'public money for public goods'. This will mean supporting farmers to enhance the environment and reduce carbon emissions, while producing food within the capacity of the land.

Luppitt Landscape Partnership is moving towards the end of the draft period and their plan will be submitted to Defra in December/January.

The Parish Councillors did not have any questions and Cllr Turner thanked Gavin for his informative presentation.

#### **PLANNING**

Applications (for comment, support or objection)
25/1354/FUL – Shapcombe Farm, Combe Raleigh, EX14 4UJ – general purpose agricultural building

The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application.

#### **Decisions**

24/0938/AGR – Mohuns Ottery, Luppitt, EX14 4TS – agricultural building – refusal

#### **REPORTS**

#### **Ward Councillors**

Cllrs Brown and Levine explained that the English Devolution bill and Local Government reorganisation are taking up most of the time in discussions at East Devon. They agreed that the way forward is no clearer. Cllr Brown mentioned that winter car parking charges are under review.

#### **County Councillor**

There was no report as Cllr Connor is away.

the various options is not compatible with rural areas.

EDDC briefing on Local Government reorganisation and Devolution The clerk had attended an online presentation by EDDC. The Government proposes Statutory Authorities which must each comprise a population of 1.5m whilst Unitary Authorities must comprise a population of 500,000. Exeter has come up with a proposal to be a standalone Unitary Authority. To reach the required number, Exeter must spread to take in 49 parishes, 28 of which are in East Devon. There was concern that the size of population for

#### **Honiton Town Council**

Honiton Town Council has issued its own proposals which the clerk will forward to Parish Councillors. Cllr Turner advised that Honiton Town Council will be arranging a meeting for all parishes in the area to discuss the options.

#### HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

#### Parish Highways programme

Cllr Pulman reported that the protection around the road deterioration at Butkins is inadequate. The clerk will report to Highways.

#### **Parish Maintenance**

- Cllr Turner has put an article in the Luppitt Packet explaining landowners' responsibilities for keeping ditches clear on their land and adjacent to their property.
- A resident had reported some fly tipping near Ford Bridge.
- Cllr Tucker confirmed that a sufficient stock of sandbags is held.

## FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS Pedestrian Gate

Fencing is being improved on footpath 14 between Hillend and Otter Brewery. A pedestrian gate will need to be installed where the footpath crosses this area and the clerk has written to the Public Rights of Way officer requesting one.

#### **ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

There were no items.

#### FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

#### **External Audit**

The clerk confirmed that the external audit has been completed without any issues. All relevant papers have now been uploaded to the Parish Council website.

The clerk advised that an IT policy will be needed to comply with a new Assertion 10 in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) from 2026. At the very least, all Parish Councillors should have a .gov.uk email address. It is not considered best practice for Councillors in Local Government to use private computers for Council work. The clerk will keep the Parish Council updated.

#### **Parish Scheme of Allowances**

This item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

#### NJC Pay Awards 1 April 2025-31 March 2026

NALC has negotiated a 3% rise for staff which is backdated to 1 April 2025. The clerk suggested that this increase should not be backdated but should take effect from 1 April 2026. This was agreed (proposed by Cllr Pulman, seconded by Cllr Turner with all in favour).

#### **Banking Arrangements**

The clerk will liaise with Cllr Turner over arrangements for online payments.

#### Councillor email addresses

Cllr Turner and Murray now have use of .gov.uk email addresses. Cllr Murray reported that he could send but not receive emails. Cllr Turner will liaise with Cllr Murray to make the necessary adjustments. The clerk will organise a .gov.uk email address for Cllr Summers.

#### Correspondence

The clerk passed on good wishes from Cllr Hill who is progressing well.

#### CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

There were no items.

#### QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions and the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

# Date for next meeting to be held in Luppitt Village Hall at 8 pm: Tuesday, 7 October 2025

# News from the Luppitt Landscape Partnership RARITIES AND RECOLLECTIONS

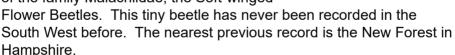
As autumn blows in, it's a time for taking stock of the year's harvest, in all senses. This year there's been a harvest of discoveries and stories in Luppitt. Natural discoveries, re-discoveries of memories, and the uncovering (literally) of some of the secrets held in the soil.

#### Beetle mania

To start with the natural. The Luppitt Landscape Partnership's work on searching for and recording plants, birds, bats and mini-beasts across the parish builds on a long tradition of observing and noting the natural richness of this place. This year it has led to some unexpected discoveries, the sum total of which we plan to share with everyone soon.

There has been a range of 'finds' from the familiar – hares, barn owls, bats – to the very obscure. At the obscure end of the spectrum, the

close magnifying glass we've been able to hold up against the wild places in the parish has managed to focus on some real rarities. To offer one example: sweep-netting in long grass in a wild corner of a neglected small pasture near the river revealed a little beetle called Axinotarsus ruficollis (it doesn't have an English name) – a barely-registered member of the family Malachiidae, the Soft-winged



All this survey work adds to our case for attracting investment into the parish to support a rich natural environment alongside farming for food, and we continue to work with the land owners of the parish to build our shared proposals which will be submitted to Defra after Christmas.

#### River stories

Meanwhile alongside the natural history there's been a lot of social history being gathered together. Over the summer, villagers gathered for our special oral history drop-in sessions to share memories of life in Luppitt. A rich collection of stories has emerged, many of them relating to water and the river, past and present.

There were recollections of the floods of 1968, when hay was found tangled twelve feet high in trees and the river carved new paths leaving behind piles of stones. There were recollections of calmer periods and tickling trout – catching them with bare hands. There were more recent experiences of spotting eels in the stream, and unexpected moments of chasing garden furniture downstream after a storm. There were tales of calling on the local water diviner Arthur Salter to locate new springs when old ones dried up. And of course there were vivid memories of the winters of '63 and '47. Even the beavers got a mention, gnawing their way into village life and even having a riverside field named after them.

These stories are more than memories—they're the living history of this landscape. Thank you to everyone who joined us and has shared their recollections. If you have stories of your own, about the river or other aspects of life here, we'd love to hear them.

#### **Upcoming event**

Following the oral history events in the village hall over the summer, Jess Huffman will be running a final event on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2-5pm. Everyone of all ages is welcome to join us for this, which will be a hands-on creative printing workshop with local artist and printmaker Emma Molony, taking some of the findings from the oral history project and expressing them visually.

If you have any questions about the LLP and its plans, please email <a href="mailto:info@luppittlandscape.org">info@luppittlandscape.org</a>:

Best wishes from the Luppitt Landscape Partnership team

The Granary, Overday Farm

www.luppittlandscape.org

#### **ANSWERS TO SEPTEMBER PUZZLE**



- 1. Stable
- 2. Habitable
- 3. Hospitable
- 4. Vegetable
- 5. Timetable
- 6. Transportable
- 7. Inevitable
- 8. Constable
- 9 Predictable
- 10. Turntable

- 11. Inflatable
- 12. Suitable
- 13. Irritable
- 14. Debatable
- 15. Transmittable
- 16. Charitable
- 17. Forgettable
- 18. Profitable
- 19. Accountable
- 20. Regrettable





## THE PRESSING DETAILS

The juice produced from the pressing won't be ready to take home from the event. It will be taken away, settled, bottled and pasteurised. Orders placed at the event will be available for collection from the following locations on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October:

- Coffee Morning at Luppitt Village Hall 11:00-13:00
- The Luppitt Inn from 19:30 23:00

#### **JUICE PRICES**

£3.50 per bottle if you donate apples to the event. £4.00 per bottle without a donation of apples.

#### IMPORTANT:

- Only good quality, hand picked apples please- no windfalls or bruised apples as it will spoil the batch.
- Donations limited to three carrier bags of apples per person
- Max order of 5 bottles per person
- The event may be cancelled if the weather is too wet as the apple pressing & activities will be outside. Keep an eye out on the Luppitt Facebook page for updates.

# The Church Bells of Luppitt, need your help!



The bells in St Mary's Church Luppitt, have been ringing for years and have been very well maintained, however recently we had to stop ringing the bells for a short period of time to carry out essential maintenance. Two bells had to have stays replaced, the stay on each bell is an important part of the



mechanics and without it, we cannot ring. For this urgent repair we asked an engineering company to carry out the work, which cost over £500.

We have also recently had a full bell tower inspection carried out to fall in line with new regulations. As a result of this inspection, there was quite a long list of work that needed to be carried out. The list was broken down into "short" and "long" term actions/repairs.

As we have a wealth of knowledge and experience within the village when it comes to the bell tower, most of the short-term issues have already been addressed, work included:

- New stay fitted on number 6 bell
- New greaser caps fitted on the clapper hinges
- All sliders checked and regreased
- Clapper staple bolts tightened
- New rope and new rope guide fitted to number 3 bell
- Refilled grease cap on tenor clapper staple hinge
- Replaced the missing bolts from the wheels

There are however items on the inspection report that need further investigation and



will require us to get the professionals in to help, this work includes:

- Treat all internal woodwork in the bell chamber for woodworm
- Monitor the condition of the cracked bell-pad of number 5 bell
- Rubbing down and painting ceiling and supporting RSJ's in intermediate chamber and tower roof



- Having all bells inspected for pitting (due to constant clapper use)
- Have the Bell-frame foundation inspected for corrosion around the mounting to the west wall

We therefore need to raise money to help pay for these repairs. The bell ringing team would like to ask for your support and patience over the coming months as there may be times we are unable to ring so that work can be carried out.

We are still waiting for further inspections to be completed and quotes to comes through, so at this time we unable to put a value to what we need to raise, but as I am sure you can appreciate, things are not cheap these days, so if anyone would like to make a donation or offer any help with regards to fund raising events, it would be greatly appreciated.

We recently had a stall at the village fete and raised £80, which covered the cost of the inspection report. We have also booked a band for a Ceilidh Dance, whereby we hope to have a fun evening as well as raise money.

Please save this date: Friday 13th March 2026!

#### Lorna Rockett Tower Captain

#### Christmas Front Cover

#### Children's Art Competition

Design a front cover for Decembers 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

World Smile Day World smile day is celebrated on the first Friday in October, which this year is on the sixth of October,

this can be celebrated in many ways:

Share a smile

Perform an act of kindness

Organise smile inducing activities

Share smile stories

Donate to a cause

Smile for a selfie

World Smile Day was initiated by Harvey Ball a commercial artist, known for creating the iconic smiley face symbol in 1993. The Harvey Ball World Smile Foundation promote the message of spreading smiles and kindness world wide.

Smiling is Infectious By Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious You catch it like the flu When someone smiled at me today I started smiling too I passed around a corner And someone saw me grin When he smiled I realised I'd passed it on to him I thought about that smile Then realised its worth A single smile just like mine Could travel round the earth So, if you feel a smile begin Don't leave it undetected Lets start an epidemic quick And get the world infected!

This poem was actually written by Jez Alborough but was often credited as the work of Spike Milligan.

# Quaker Meeting for Worship Spiceland Quaker Meeting Uffculme EX15 3AZ

We Meet for Worship at Spiceland every Sunday at 10.30am till 11.30am - this is a blended Meeting also available on Zoom -

Meeting for Worship 10:30am - NEW Zoom link Meeting ID: 870 5891 4842 Passcode: 511218

There is also a Meeting at the Waldron Chapel, King Street, Tiverton.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month from 2 - 2.30pm

All are very welcome. https://spiceland.guakermeeting.org/

Roads Go Ever On
Roads go ever ever on,
Over rock and under tree,
By caveswhere never sun has shone,
By streams that never find the sea;
Over snow by winter sown,
And through the merry flowers of June,
Over grassand over stone,
And under mountains in the moon.

Roads go ever ever on,
Under cloud and under star.
Yet feet that wandering have gone
Turn at lastto home afar.
Eyes that fire and sword have seen,
And horror in the halls of stone
Look at last on meadows green,
And trees and hills they long have
known.

The Road goesever on and on
Down from the door where it began.
Now far ahead the Road has gone,
And I must follow, if I can,
Pursuing it with eagerfeet,
Until it joins somelarger way,
Where many paths and errands meet.

The Road goesever on and on Down from the door where it began. Now far ahead the Road has gone, And I must follow, if I can, Pursuingit with weary feet, Until it joins some larger way, Where many paths and errands meet. And whither then?I cannot say.

The Road goesever on and on
Out from the door where it began.
Now far ahead the Road has gone.
Let others follow, if they can!
Let them a journey new begin.
But I at last with weary feet
Will turn towards the lighted inn,
My evening-rest and sleep to meet.

Still 'round the corner there may wait A new road or secret gate; And though I oft have passedthem by, A day will come at last when I Shall take the hidden paths that run West of the Moon, East of the Sun.

JR Tolkien

#### Blackdown Hills Repair Cafés – Save the Dates

The next two Repair Café events hosted by Blackdown Hills Transition are coming up soon: **Saturday 27th September** in Churchinford Village Hall, and **Saturday 22nd November** in Hemyock Parish Hall, both from **10:00 to 12:45**. These are great opportunities to bring along household items that need fixing, meet neighbours, reduce waste, and learn from volunteers skilled in repair. All are welcome — whether you've got something small to mend, want to lend a hand, enjoy a cup of tea/coffee with a bacon sandwich/cake or simply enjoy the company. Do come along and help make our community more resilient!

#### Saturday 4th October (10am-2pm)

The Blackdown Hills Eco Hub, Combe Raleigh will host a CAG Devon Workshop - <u>Growing Change Together: Building Food Resilience from the Ground Up.</u> This workshop brings local community growers, foodbanks, community larder groups together to share ideas, strengthen networks, and explore practical ways to build fairer, more sustainable local food systems — with hearty soup and homemade bread to enjoy too.

Volunteering at the community food growing space at the Blackdown Hills Eco Hub is a great way to learn new skills, enjoy the outdoors, take home fresh organic produce and contribute to creating a more resilient local food system. We meet every Wednesday from 2:00-4:00pm and Saturday from 11:00 -1:00pm. Everyone welcome!

#### Saturday 6th December (11am - 3pm)

Join us in the Christmas spirit at the much-loved Blackdown Hills Eco Hub annual natural wreath-making event, taking place at Trimplants on Saturday 6th December.

11am–3pm. Enjoy a festive and creative day making beautiful wreaths from seasonal natural materials, with good company, mulled wine, mince pies, and St Nicholas treats. Cost: £12, with all proceeds supporting our Eco Hub seed and compost fund.



#### Wild Foods Day

Wild Foods Day is celebrated every year on October 28 and was started in the mid-1970s by those who wanted to promote the idea of eating food that grows in the wild, It is thought that the inspiration behind this day came from American, Euell Gibbons, who was a healthy food advocate.

Humans have consumed plants and gathered food from the wild for thousands of years. However, in recent years foraging has become more popular and a bit trendy, because you can now see wild foods on menus in gourmet and raw food restaurants.



It is a healthy and satisfying feeling to be able to eat foraged food that is essentially free and completely fresh and at this time of the year there is an abundance of food. However, take only what you need and leave the rest for the many animals and insects that rely on them. There are also rules you should observe when you go foraging and the most important of these is always:

#### Never eat anything unless you are 100% sure it is safe.

When foraging for wild food, you **MUST** be able to correctly identify what you are picking, otherwise you should not eat it – this applies to potentially poisonous plants as well as mushrooms. Equally, don't pick things thinking you will research them later, as you may be picking a rare or endangered species.

You must also observe the Countryside Act, which says that foraging the 4 F's from common land is acceptable so long as it is for personal consumption only. The 4 F's are fruit, foliage, flora and fungus.

On private land you should always seek the landowner's permission. If you see mushrooms on someone's lawn, or a tree dripping with fruit that seem to be going to waste, then knock on the door and ask if they wouldn't mind you harvesting it. Don't just assume you can take it! A safe place to start with foraging is with nettles. They are a great source of iron, calcium and vitamin A and vitamin C. You can make them into a quick and nutritious soup, but when picking avoid busy roadsides, dog walking areas (for obvious reasons!) and agricultural land that may have been sprayed.

Here are some top foraging finds for October:

#### **Bullace (Prunus domestica)**

Bullace is a wild variety of plum with fruits similar to damsons. They can be used to make crumbles, jams and preserves, fruit wine and fruit liqueurs.

They have small, oval fruits that can vary in colour but are usually blue, purple or black. They tend to taste acidic until they're ripe but are a great late season fruit.

#### Beech nuts (Fagus sylvatica)

These edible nuts, or masts, were once used to feed pigs. <u>Beech</u> nuts are still ripening into October. They're a bit small to collect in numbers but make a tasty nibble on an autumn walk. Scrape off the outer brown skin to reveal the triangular seed. If you do collect more than a few, they



can be used in a similar way to pine nuts, sprinkled on salads and risottos. Roast in the oven then place between two tea towels and rub to remove shells. Don't eat too many though – they can be slightly toxic if consumed in large quantities, due to the tannins and alkaloids.

#### Hazelnut (Corylus avellana)

Hazelnuts (or cobnuts and filberts) begin to ripen when the leaves on the trees change colour - although it has been a little earlier after the hot Summer. You can also eat them earlier in the season whilst they are still green.

#### Rosehip (Rosa canina)

Rosehip syrup has traditionally been made to help ward off winter colds. The hips are not only rich in Vitamin C, but also antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds, providing numerous health benefits such as boosting the immune system, reducing inflammation and joint pain and promoting heart health by lowering cholesterol and blood pressure.

#### Sloes (Prunus spinosa)

The general rule is to pick after the first frost as it softens the skins and helps to release the juices. You can get round this by picking early and freezing at home instead. Best known for sloe gin, you can also use them for whisky, jams and vinegar.

#### Blackberry Syrup

This intense, zingy reduction of sweetened blackberry juice with hints of lemon and ginger is a doddle to make, keeps well, and is very versatile. Use it as a cordial to mix with sparking water, or try it poured over ice cream, added to a salad dressing, folded into yoghurt or whipped cream to make a fool (as below)

Makes: around 200ml

- · 350g blackberries
- 115g caster sugar
- 3 strips of pared lemon rind
- 2 slices of ginger, each about 0.5cm thick
- 125ml water

#### Method

- Wash then drain the blackberries.
   Add the sugar, lemon rind and ginger, then pour over the water. Put the pan over the heat and bring gently to the boil. Simmer for 15 to 20 minutes, stirring every now and then, until the fruit is completely softened and the juices in the pan are beginning to thicken.
- Remove the lemon rind and ginger and strain out the seeds - either in a sieve over a bowl – pressing the pulp with a wooden spoon, or use a mouli if you have one.
- Pour the syrup into a small sterilised bottle or jar, close the lid, and leave to cool. Stored in the refrigerator, it will keep for up to a month.

#### **Blackberry Fool**

Use some of the blackberry syrup to make this very simple blackberry fool. The only thing to be careful about is that you don't over whip the cream: stop the moment the cream thickens and forms soft peaks. This will ensure the fool doesn't turn grainy when you fold in the syrup.

Serves: 4 Prep: 10 minutes

- 200ml double cream
- 4 tablespoons blackberry syrup (see recipe)

- Zest of 1 unwaxed lemon
- 100g blackberries, rinsed and drained

#### Method

- 1. Pour the cream into a large bowl and whisk until soft, floppy peaks
- 2. Scatter with the lemon zest, pour over 2 tablespoons of the blackberry syrup and fold lightly to marble the cream.
- Divide the mixture between 4 sundae glasses, top with the blackberries and drizzle over the remaining syrup.
- Serve with shortbread biscuits

#### **Hedgerow Jelly**

You can adapt to whatever autumn fruits are available, but half the fruit should be crab apples (or cooking apples) because they contain pectin, which will enable the jelly to set. The remainder can be whatever wild fruits you prefer. A high proportion of blackberries will temper the astringency of hawthorn berries, elderberries and sloes. Makes: Approx 2 × 350ml jars Prep: 10 minutes, plus straining

Cook: 10-30 minutes

- 750g crab apples (or cooking apples)
- 750g mixed hedgerow fruits
- A cinnamon stick, some cloves or a couple of star anise (optional)
- About 700g granulated sugar

#### Method

- Wash and drain the fruit and remove any stalks or leaves. Cut the apples into quarters and put them into a large saucepan with the rest of the fruit and about 1 litre of cold water - or enough to cover. Bring to the boil, then simmer until all of the fruit is completely soft. Crush the fruit well with a potato masher as you go and when everything is soft and pulpy remove the pan from the heat.
- Line a sieve with muslin, and set it over a large jug or bowl. Tip the fruit into the sieve, and leave to drip overnight. Do not press the fruit, as



- this will make the jelly cloudy. The next day, put a saucer into the freezer. Measure the juice, and for every 100ml add 70g granulated sugar. Put the juice and sugar into a clean pan and bring to the boil, stirring gently to dissolve the sugar. Increase the heat and bring to a rolling boil for about 10 minutes, skimming off any scum that accumulates on the surface.
- After 10 minutes, test by putting a teaspoon of the mixture onto the cold saucer. Leave it for a few seconds, then push the edge of the puddle with your fingertip. If it has solidified, the jelly is ready. If not, return the cleaned saucer to the freezer, boil the mixture for another 5 minutes and test again.
- 5. When the jelly is ready, pour it into sterilised jars and seal while still slightly warm. Store in a cool dry place. Unopened, the jelly should keep for up to 1 year. Once opened, store the jar in the fridge use within 3 months.

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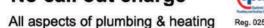


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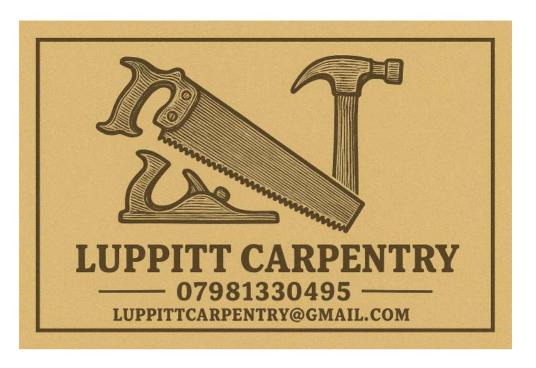
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