

**Luppitt Packet**  
**April 2026**

*Art by Vanessa Nancarrow*



# SUNDAY STROLL

10<sup>th</sup> May, 2pm  
Luppitt Village Hall

**BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC**




**NO CHARGE FOR THE WALK**

**TEA AND CAKES CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE HALL AFTER THE WALK**

Children must be supervised  
Dogs on Leads

## LUPPITT FLOWER SHOW 15 August 2026 Entry Classes

Potatoes White and Red	Roses
Carrots	Dahlias
Runner Beans	Cactus
Courgettes	Tree Fruit
Tomatoes	Raspberries
Cucumber	Gooseberries
Red Onions	Premature baby's Cardigan (2-3KG) to be donated
Annuals	Cushion Cover
Perennials	Geranium in a pot
Pansies	
Sweet Peas	



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If you would like any advice, please contact your local Devon team:

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## THE LUPPITT PACKET



As we move into April, there's a welcome sense of spring settling in after the long winter months. The days are growing lighter, gardens are stirring back to life, and here's wishing for plenty more of the recent wonderfully warm sunny days which encouraged us all outdoors again. Not to mention the garden grass is finally dry enough to mow!

April also brings with it a touch of mischief, and you may notice that this month's magazine contains one or two items that shouldn't be taken entirely at face value. In the spirit of April Fool's Day, we've allowed a little playful creativity to sneak into these pages - so do read with a curious and careful eye and don't take everything at face value!

Beyond the pranks, April brings with it one of the most joyful times of the year. Easter offers a chance to gather, reflect, and indulge - whether that's through community events, family meals, or the simple pleasure of a well-earned chocolate egg (or two). Take a look inside to see all the planned activities for this month and try out a couple of our Easter themed recipes. You can also read all about Shakespeare Day in celebration of his birthday on the 23rd April.

Thank you very much to everyone who has sent a donation to the Packet. We are very grateful for everything received so far, but we are still £700 short of our target to cover costs to the end of the year, so any further donations would be very welcome.

As always, thank you to everyone who contributes, reads, and supports our village magazine. We hope you enjoy this month's edition and wish you all a Happy Easter!

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

### DISCLAIMER

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

## Luppitt Entertainments Committee Events

Coming up soon:

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April: Easter Bingo 7pm for 7:30pm**

Fun for all the family

Save the Date:

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May: Sunday Stroll 2pm,**

With bring your own picnic, tea/coffee & cake at the Village Hall afterwards.

**Further events being planned - watch this space...**

## 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*

## Church Cleaning and Flower Rota 2026

4 April	Sue Piechowiak
11 April	Jean Gardiner, Joy Tofts and Pat Bussey
18 April	Mary Joyce and Pearl Pulman
25 April	Mary Hill

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2 May	Sue Piechowiak
9 May	Jean Gardiner and Joy Tofts
16 May	Pat Bussey
23 May	Mary Joyce and Pearl Pulman
30 May	Mary Hill

## COPY DATE FOR THE LUPPITT PACKET MAY ISSUE IS

**19 April 2026 TO [editors@luppittpacket.co.uk](mailto:editors@luppittpacket.co.uk)**

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## DIRECTORY

### Parish Council

Chair	www.luppittparish.gov.uk	
Vice Chair	Michele Turner	07525 796197
	Martin Summers	01404 46845
		07748 780096
Clerk	Rosalind Buxton	07944 625025
	<a href="mailto:clerk@luppittparish.gov.uk">clerk@luppittparish.gov.uk</a>	

### Village Hall

Bookings	Jean Hooper	01404 892969
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### Luppitt Commons

Kate Jarman  
[luppittcommons@gmail.com](mailto:luppittcommons@gmail.com)

Parish Notices WhatsApp	Lucy Murray	07968 900349
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### Priest-in-charge

Nigel Candelent  
[revnigel@dunkeswell.org.uk](mailto:revnigel@dunkeswell.org.uk)

### Associate Priest

Jane Penn  
[revjane@dunkeswell.org.uk](mailto:revjane@dunkeswell.org.uk)

### Mission Community Admin

Sara Bevan  
[sara@dunkeswell.org.uk](mailto:sara@dunkeswell.org.uk)

### PCC Secretary

Vacancy

Luppitt Entertainments Chair	Phil Smith	07984 735663
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Luppitt Entertainments Sec	Pat Bussey	01404 892720
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Captain of Bellringers	Lorna Rockett	07894 072133
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[Lornarockett@hotmail.com](mailto:Lornarockett@hotmail.com)

Hartridge Buddhist Monastery		01404 891251
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### 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)

## Rev Nigel writes...

As I write some words for the final time before we move on to take up my new post in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, I would like to thank those who have said kind words, sent emails and cards wishing both Liz and I well and God's blessings in our new ministry that awaits us.



As I reflect on nearly three years here in the Dunkeswell Mission Community, it has been a joy to love and serve through the pastoral work, Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals and a wide range of different styles of services across the six parishes. It has been a blessing to have attended many different events that the six parishes have put on, showing a real sense of church and community.

It has been great to be part of a team including Rev Jane, Rev Peter and our Licensed Lay Minister Sara Bevan. To have been involved in services with them all has been very special. Thanks also to the lay leaders of services and the retired clergy who have covered where needed. It has also been exciting to see the development of a variety of different services covering all ages and traditions, including fresh expressions of Church, such as the various cafe style churches, Messy Church and Friday at 4. I am also very thankful to the team who have made the services aimed at our families possible. Messy Church and Friday at 4 are now regular fixtures on the calendar and valued, allowing children and families to explore their faith through craft, activities, conversation, song and Food! We have also had Barn Nativity's for the past 2 years which has been excellent. Thanks to the Stevens family for inviting us to use Connetts farm and providing amazing refreshments.

I have also enjoyed building relationships with our Schools in Upottery, Broadhembury and Plymtree. A big thank you to the head teachers, staff and pupils for making me so welcome and feel part of their schools. Please do contact Revd Jane if you would like to be involved in some way in continuing our work as representatives of the Church in some way in our schools.

One of the most profound services I have had the privilege of being part of is on Good Friday. This year on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. It is where we remember the death of Jesus on the cross. We gather at



Hartridge Hill in Luppitt at 12 30pm for a very poignant and moving service where a number of people carry the centre cross up the hill, place it between 2 crosses already in place and then everyone gathers together to literally stand at the foot of the cross. Thank you to those who will put up

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

I would like to take this final opportunity to wish you all every blessing and do be assured of my prayers for all six parishes in this community of Churches knowing God does have a plan in place for you all. I would also like to wish you all a very happy Easter and renewed hope for the future as we pray for God's peace and presence in our lives and in the world.

Every blessing  
Rev Nigel Candelent



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

## **Messy Church**

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

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

**Luppitt Village Hall**

**10.30am - 12pm**

**Refreshments**

**Free entry!**



**Friday@4...**

**Throgmorton Hall, Dunkeswell**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May @4pm**

**Come and join us for...**

**Family time Food@4**

**Followed by craft/activities/fun**

**Followed by story time & song.**

**Both events are for families with primary/ pre-school children.  
Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

## St Mary's Church, Luppitt



For a full list of services across  
our Mission Community visit  
<https://www.dunkeswell.org.uk>

3 <sup>rd</sup>	12:30 pm	Hartridge Crosses	Revd Nigel Candelent
5 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 am	All Age Easter Communion	Revd Nigel Candelent
13 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Messy Church in the Village Hall	Team Led
19 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Holy Communion	Revd Peter Horder
26 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Breakfast Church in the hall	Sara Bevan

### Mission Community Easter Services

2 <sup>nd</sup> April	7:00pm	Broadhembury, Maundy Thursday	Ministry Team
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	11:00am	Wolford Chapel Service	Revd Peter Horder

## Dogs & Livestock

The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Act 2025 became law on Wednesday 18 March 2026. Please be aware of these key changes to the existing "livestock worrying" laws:

- the maximum penalty facing those whose dogs attack or chase livestock rises from £1,000 to an unlimited fine;
- police given new powers to seize dogs believed to pose an ongoing threat to livestock and to enter premises to secure evidence or animal DNA;
- new powers allowing a court to order an offender to pay expenses associated with seizing and detaining a dog;
- incidents prosecuted even if they occur on roads or public paths, rather than only on private farmland.

According to NFU Mutual, it is estimated livestock worth nearly £2m was severely injured or killed by dogs in 2025, up 10% from the previous year.

Now spring is (finally) upon us, and ewes and lambs are out in the fields, please follow the countryside code.

In particular, if you have **friends & family visiting**, or have **guests staying in a holiday cottage**, remember that they may have dogs which have never seen sheep before. Please ask them to keep dogs on leads when livestock are present.

Gavin Brake

Chairman, Luppitt Commons Ltd

## APRIL PUZZLE

Something has gone wrong in the supermarket and these food items have had their letters replaced by symbols. If we tell you that the first group stands for POTATOES, can you work out the names of the other items purchased?



1 ☆ ☆ ✱ ☆ ✱ ☆ ✱ ✱

2 ✱ ☆ ☆ ☆ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

3 ✱ ✱ ☆ ✱ ✱

4 ✱ ☆ ✱ ☆ ✱ ✱ ✱

5 ☆ ☆ ✱ ✱ ☆ ☆ ☆ ✱

6 ☆ ✱ ✱ ☆ ✱ ☆ ☆ ☆ ✱



**Do join us for our quiz night in aid of Church and Bell maintenance**

**When?** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7PM

**Where?** Luppitt Village Hall

**What?** Substantial snacks, cash bar, raffle, tables of 6

**How much?** £6 per person



**To book please call or WhatsApp Pat Bussey on 07747 624433 or Lorna Rockett 07894 072133**



# EASTER BINGO

**FUN FOR ALL  
THE FAMILY**

**Thursday 2nd April**

**7:00 for 7:30pm.**

Luppitt Village Hall

**\*\*\* RAFFLE \*\*\***

**\*\*\* BAR \*\*\***



## Chocolate Easter Egg Nests



### **Ingredients**

- 225g dark chocolate or a mix of dark and milk chocolate, broken into small pieces
- 2 tbsp golden syrup
- 50g butter
- 75g cornflakes or puffed rice cereal
- 36 mini chocolate eggs

### **Method**

1. Line a 12-hole fairy cake tin with paper cases.
2. Melt the chocolate gently, golden syrup and butter in a bowl set over a saucepan of gently simmering water (do not let the base of the bowl touch the water). Stir the mixture occasionally until smooth.
3. Remove the bowl from the heat and gently stir in the cornflakes until all of the cereal is coated in the chocolate.
4. Divide the mixture between the paper cases and press 3 chocolate eggs into the centre of each nest. Chill in the fridge for 1 hour, or until completely set.

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## Traditional Easter Biscuits

### **Ingredients**

- 165g unsalted butter (cold and cubed)
- 85g caster sugar
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- Zest of 1 lemon (finely grated)
- 275g plain flour
- 100g currants
- 2-3 tbsp milk

### **Method**

1. Add the butter, in cold small cubes, with the sugar, mixed spice, lemon and plain flour into a large bowl
2. Rub the mixture together with your fingertips until it forms breadcrumbs
3. Add the currants and mix through
4. Add the milk, a little at a time, knead well until it comes together - make sure to not add too much too

quickly as a wet dough may spread

5. Wrap the dough in clingfilm and chill for at least 30 minutes
6. Preheat the oven to 180°C/ 160°C fan and line 2-3 large trays with parchment paper
7. Tip the dough onto a lightly floured surface
8. Roll out the dough out until about 0.5cm thick
9. Cut out biscuits, using a 8cm cutter, and keep re-rolling until the dough is used up
10. Add to lined trays and then bake for 12-15 minutes, until golden
11. Cool on the trays for 15 minutes and then transfer to a wire rack



## MARCH PUZZLE ANSWERS

<b>42</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>122</b>
-5	+50%	-71
+17	$\times \frac{1}{3}$	$\times \frac{1}{3}$
$\div 9$	$\times 11$	+196
+6	$\times \frac{3}{5}$	$\div 3$
$\div 4$	$\div 11$	+165
<b>59</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>108</b>



### HERO Challenge Classic car event

There will be a classic car event passing close to Luppitt on the morning of April 11<sup>th</sup> 2026, from around 9:45 to 11:45 am.



It is a low-speed navigation event and the organisers will be establishing secret controls on the road to penalise participants who exceed the average speed limits they impose (e.g. it goes down to 15 mph through the narrow parts to the south of the village).

The organisers have advised that there will obviously be increased traffic at this time and they hope that the event will not inconvenience the village too much.

## The History of the Easter Egg

The Easter egg is a symbol with roots stretching back thousands of years, evolving from a simple sign of rebirth into the chocolate version we know today. Their history is a fascinating blend of ancient culture, religious tradition, and royal luxury.

Long before the rise of Christianity, the egg was a universal symbol of fertility and new life. As early as 60,000 years ago, people in Africa decorated ostrich eggs to use as water containers. Ancient Sumerians and Egyptians placed gold and silver egg replicas in tombs to represent the cycle of life and rebirth.

Early Christians adopted the egg as a metaphor for the Resurrection of Jesus with the hard shell representing the tomb. In Mesopotamia, early Christians dyed eggs red to represent the blood shed on the cross. By the Middle Ages, eggs became a "holy" treat. During Lent the eating of any animal products, including eggs, was strictly forbidden. Since chickens continued to lay them, families boiled the eggs to preserve them. When Easter Sunday finally arrived, these eggs were brought to the table as a celebration, often decorated with vegetable dyes or gold leaf for the



In 1290, King Edward I of England famously ordered 450 eggs to be wrapped in gold leaf as gifts for his court. This tradition peaked in late 19th-century Russia, where Peter Carl Fabergé created 50 breathtaking jewelled eggs for the Tsars, turning the humble egg into a priceless work of art.

The modern Easter egg was born in the 19th century. The first chocolate eggs appeared in France and Germany, but they were solid and quite bitter. In 1873, the British chocolatier J.S. Fry & Sons produced the first hollow chocolate egg, followed by Cadbury in 1875. These innovations, combined with the German legend of the "Osterhase" (the Easter Hare), led to the Easter we know today.

## Twenty Years Ago .... Amazing Events in the Village, and a Startling Revelation

“It was getting dimpsy, and I just had a funny feeling that something peculiar was going to happen, but I didn’t know what,” said a villager who did not want to be named.

“I’d never come across anything like it before, said another. “I woke up in the night, feeling that something was wrong. I couldn’t quite put my finger on it, but I just felt there was something queer going on.”

A third villager agreed, “I thought there was a fishy smell. Then there was a noise ‘Whoosh...whoosh...whoosh...’ it went, I thought it was just the cat.”

A man, who did not wish to be identified, said “Of course them incomers don’t know about the stories – but we all know that just here is really called Luppitt Harbour. It’s not called that for nothing.”



The event causing such interest is most unusual. It appears that during the night a combination of exceptionally high Spring Tides and strong southerly gales produced a surge of sea water which swept right up into the heart of the village. No local people can recall such an event happening before.

Douglas Parkes, who has an interest in such things, offered a slightly different view. “Although it’s pretty unusual, I think this sort of thing happens every few hundred years. There were bad floods in coastal areas in 1981. And in January 1607 there was The Great Flood. This swept over lower areas around the Bristol Channel, and several thousand people were drowned. You can see watermarks at about two meters high in churches.

“We don’t know if something like this happened about a thousand years ago, in the English Channel, when the Vikings were around here. They are well known for going all over the place, not just for rape and pillage but for looking for somewhere nice to settle down. They went into western Asia; they were called the Rus [The name means ‘the men who row’, and this gave Russia the name]. As well as Russia, they were also in Belarus and Ukraine. Some went to



Istanbul, where a few left graffiti in Hagia Sophia. One wrote his name – Halfdan – in Runic characters. In the opposite direction they went to Iceland, Greenland, Newfoundland and somewhere called Vinland. Closer to home, they were in northern France, becoming the Normans in Normandy. And even closer to home, they came to Exeter and Broadclyst.

“It’s perfectly possible a small group of Danes came up the river here. They could well have been a comparatively peaceful group. Perhaps they were looking for some of the famous whetstones found round here. After all, they still needed to keep their swords and axes in good condition. Each man looked after his own small knife (what we would call a pocket knife) with its various special little tools like tweezers and toothpick etc, to help with their general hygiene and grooming, and a little hookie sharp thing whose exact purpose is still a mystery today. It’s little known that they washed their faces, and combed their beards and hair every day, and had a bath once a week.

“On the other hand, they could have been looking out for something special, like lace, to take back to their wives or girlfriends back home in hometown Ribe. We all know how girls react to a bit of fancy underwear and such like. Just look what happened in the war, with the Yanks and their nylons ...er, I don’t mean the Luppitt ladies, of course. I was thinking of them over Dunkeswell way.

“Or perhaps they were really just looking for somewhere nice to settle down. It would be somewhere where they wouldn’t feel so homesick if they were able to create circumstances like home. Maybe they missed that feeling of hygge, that sense of being cosy, secure and at peace when they could enjoy small every-day moments with friends and family around the log fire.

“They would be able to relax after a meal of pickled herring and rye bread, or perhaps bacon or pork belly with a horn or two of ale, with the children playing with their small rectangular wooden building blocks that they could fit together to make things like huts or models of Mjolnir, Thor’s hammer.”



Parkes then made some final remarks that were perhaps surprising. "Could it be that our valley was just the place to suit them? After all, a possible origin of the village name is Lugg's Pit, (the hut or hovel of a man named Lugg or Lugga). And, even today, you can see one or two blond children in the village."

More controversy arose over rumours of a white Transit-type van being seen in the area. It was not a local vehicle and was being driven slowly. The two men in it were described as shifty or suspicious-looking town people. One villager said they were looking for a BMW motorbike.

One day after all the excitement, the waters had receded and there was little evidence of the past 24 hours. There appeared to be some litter left around the tideline earlier in the morning. It looked like chocolate-biscuit wrappers and possibly paper nappies, but was soon all cleared up.

The village was again calm; Luppitt Harbour was quiet, peaceful and normal. It was just as if the previous day's events had never happened.

DS

*P.S. Do you think this is all just hokum because it's the First of April? See next month...*

### **Blackdown Hills Repair Cafes**

Repair Cafes dates - taking place at Hemyock Parish Hall

26th September 2026 - 10:00-12:45 hrs.

28th November 2026 - 10:00-12:45 hrs.

### **Blackdown Hills Eco Hub Community Garden (Trimplants, Combe Raleigh)**

We meet every Wednesday from 14:00 - 16:00 hrs at the Eco Hub - busy planting seeds and getting our community garden ready for planting.

Follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/BHEcoHub>

# William Shakespeare “Sweet Swan of Avon”

It seems appropriate that England's greatest playwright was reputedly born and died, aged 52, on St George's Day, 23rd April. Whether or not he wrote the plays attributed to him has long been a matter of dispute. Other candidates have ranged from Edward de Vere (17th Earl of Oxford), Sir Francis Bacon, Christopher Marlowe and even Emilia Bassano, thought to be the mistress of Shakespeare's patron, Lord Hunsdon.



Despite this conjecture, most historians maintain that William Shakespeare wrote the plays (between 36 and 40, if collaborations with other writers are included) that many of us will have studied at school, as well as poems and 154 sonnets. They cite contemporary evidence, his fellow actors' testimonies, and the lack of concrete evidence for any other author. His friend, the poet and playwright Ben Johnson, wrote about him "I loved the man and do honour his memory on this side idolatry as much as any." However, Johnson was not averse to criticism when he felt it was due. Of *The Winter's Tale* he wrote "Shakespeare in a play brought in a number of men saying they had suffered shipwreck in Bohemia, where is no sea near, by some hundred miles."

Whilst many aspects of Shakespeare's life are unknown, contemporary documents have survived and show that he was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564, the son of John Shakespeare and Mary Arden.<sup>1</sup> His father was a glove-maker who also held a number of civic positions, including that of official ale taster for the borough of Stratford-upon-Avon! When William was 18 he had a hastily arranged marriage to 26 year-old Anne Hathaway (daughter Susanna was already on the way, followed by twins Hamnet and Judith). The boy's death, aged eleven and the effect it had on Anne and William is the subject of last year's much acclaimed film, *'Hamnet'*.

History does not recount when Shakespeare started writing his plays, or when he moved to London. *The Taming of the Shrew* is thought to be one of the earliest and is believed to have been written before 1592. By that year he was already established in London, where he became a founding member of The Lord Chamberlain's Men, a company of actors. No original manuscripts of the plays have survived, which has fuelled the theories about their 'true' author, but actors from his company preserved copies after his death. These were brought together as the *'First Folio'* which contains 36 plays. These were divided into three main

categories: Tragedies (dark themes and downfalls), Comedies (lighter themes and misunderstandings with happy endings) and Histories in the publication. The plays were so popular in Elizabethan times because they reflected everyday human situations and emotions. Even today they are updated and given a modern setting (not to everyone's taste!) and they still work just as well. We also owe many idioms in common usage to the plays, such as the following, to name but a few:

'Be cruel to be kind' (*Hamlet*)

'Green-eyed monster' and 'wear your heart on your sleeve' (*Othello*)

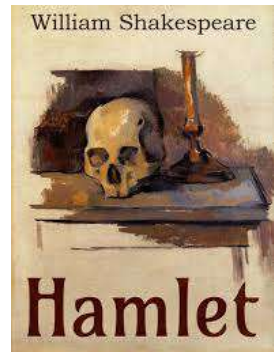
'The world's your oyster' and 'What the dickens' (*The Merry Wives of Windsor*)

'Break the ice' (*The Taming of the Shrew*)

'Heart of Gold' (*Henry V*)

'In stitches' (*Twelfth Night*)

Shakespeare returned permanently to Stratford in 1613, having bought the second largest property there - New Place - and he made significant investments in local land. He is buried in Holy Trinity Church and Stratford very much claims its famous son. Every April there is a procession of schools, local dignitaries and costumed actors and musicians parading through the town centre in his honour and usually finishing near the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Open-air performances take place with live music, food stalls and family workshops. Famous landmarks such as Shakespeare's birthplace, Anne Hathaway's Cottage and Holy Trinity Church are opened to guests.



Finally, to one of Shakespeare's best-known quotes, taken from *As You Like It*:

"All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players;  
They have their exits and their entrances,  
And one man in his time plays many parts,  
His acts being seven ages."

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<sup>1</sup> For a funny, light-hearted description of the life of Shakespeare, as he starts to make a name for himself in London while also trying to be a good husband and father for his family in Stratford-upon-Avon, it is well worth watching 'Upstart Crow' (available on BBC iPlayer)

## Spring Statement Shock Tax



A shock tax has been revealed as a result of last month's Spring Statement delivered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Alongside measures such as the Inheritance Tax Threshold being frozen until 2030/31 and Pension Pots to be brought into IHT from April 2027, a further 'Gnome Tax' was announced in an addendum at the end of the written statement, published after the Chancellor's speech on 3rd March.

Local authorities will be carrying out a census of all garden gnomes and other ornaments during April and May. Mr V. Small of East Devon District Council has confirmed that the census will be carried out using drones. They will categorise the garden ornaments into Gnomes, Elves, Fairies and 'others'.

A report will then be submitted to Mr E. Plump in the Council Tax department who will write to all affected householders. The letter will allow for appeals and also advise householders that they must declare any gnomes lurking in the undergrowth which had not been spotted by the drones. Failure to do so may result in a fine.



The tax will be collected by EDDC through the usual council tax bills. A charge will be made of £10 per annum for each gnome, £8 for each elf, £5 for each fairy and £2 for 'others'.

Mrs Boddynock Dimble of Hobbit Farm in Luppitt, who is a well-known collector of gnomes and has over 250 in her garden, was shocked when she heard the news and is planning to appeal.

When approached for comment, the Parish Council Chair commented that the use of garden gnomes is in breach of the Luppitt Neighbourhood Plan, unless they were part of the original Blackdown Hills environment.



## ***At the going down of the sun***

### ***We will remember them...***

We honour the brave USAAF, US Navy, and RAF Airmen who served at Dunkeswell Airfield during the Second World War. From this quiet corner of East Devon, they flew the final, perilous missions against the Nazi U-boats that threatened our shores. Many never returned.

To commemorate their courage and sacrifice, a new stained-glass window has been designed for St Nicholas' Church, Dunkeswell.

The window will depict a US B-24 bomber and will incorporate a piece of Perspex recovered from the nose cone of a Liberator bomber that crashed with the loss of six crew members. This unique memorial will stand as a lasting reminder of the bond between our communities and the airmen who served here.



The window will be installed in time for its official unveiling on 14 June 2026 – American Sunday.

We are now seeking your support to complete this important project.

The design and manufacture of the window, together with essential repairs to the surrounding stone and leadwork and the installation, will cost in the region of £40,000.

Any financial contribution, no matter how large or small, will make a meaningful difference.



All sponsors and donations will be acknowledged in our special Dunkeswell Parish supplement and in the launch programme.

Your support will help ensure that the courage of these airmen is remembered for generations to come.

For further information or to support the project, please contact:  
**Peter Girling MBE – [stnicholas@dunkeswell.ork.uk](mailto:stnicholas@dunkeswell.ork.uk)**



Members of Honiton u3a can look forward to an exciting series of monthly talks at The Beehive talks this season.

On Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> Dr. Francis Burroughes will be giving an illustrated talk on “The Wonderful World of Glass”. An acknowledged expert on the history of glass, Dr. Burroughes’ talk will feature items from his own personal collection, as he describes the history of glass-making from 3000 BCE.

On May 20<sup>th</sup> Dr. Mateo Ruiz from the Barn Owl trust will be giving a talk entitled “Restoring the Balance”. The talk will explore Barn Owl ecology and the causes behind the decline of this iconic farmland bird. It will also look at wider environmental issues that have impacted Barn Owls, and encourage the audience to consider how we can reduce these impacts. The second half of the talk looks at Barn Owl conservation and the positive work of the Trust.

Rosemary Griggs makes a welcome return to Honiton u3a on June 17<sup>th</sup>. In “An Audience with the Lady Katherine”, the audience is invited to travel back in time and learn about life in Tudor Devon and the amazing clothes Her Ladyship wore.

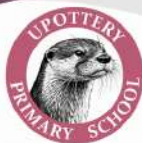
The season of talks ends on July 15<sup>th</sup>, when Ian Gregory is due to give a lecture on Sidmouth Toy and Model Museum. The museum contains the toy and model collection of Ian and Rebecca Gregory, which has been accumulated over many years together, with many toys and models that have either been donated or are on loan to the museum.

Doors open for all these talks at 1.30 p.m. and the meetings start at 2 p.m. **Honiton u3a warmly welcomes non-members to attend one of its monthly meetings, to sample what it has to offer and to meet members of the Committee and other u3a members.**

As well as the monthly talks, Honiton u3a offers over 40 different Interest Groups covering a an extremely broad range of subjects.

A spokesperson for Honiton u3a said: “2025 was a record-breaking year, with more members and more groups than ever before. We look forward to welcoming everyone to our new 2026 programme.”

To discover more, go to their website: [honiton.u3asite.uk](http://honiton.u3asite.uk)



# Upottery Primary School

## Welcome to this term's Upottery Primary Update!

It has been another incredibly busy, joyful, and enriching term at Upottery Primary School. Every day, I am amazed by the enthusiasm and outstanding learning behaviours of our children. They continue to take great pride in their work and show our school values in everything they do, both in the classroom and in the many exciting events we've enjoyed this term.

One real highlight was our whole-school Talent Show, brilliantly organised and led by our Year 6 pupils. Their leadership, teamwork, and creativity were inspiring, and it was wonderful to see the incredible range of talents our children chose to share. A huge well done to everyone involved!

We also celebrated World Book Day and National Reading Week with a fantastic turnout from parents, who joined us to share their favourite stories. It was truly special to welcome our school community together to celebrate a love of reading—and the costumes from children and parents certainly added to the fun!

Science Week brought a buzz of hands-on investigations and experiments across the school, along with engaging live lessons from the NFU, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Alongside this, many of our pupils have had the chance to represent Upottery Primary at sporting events including tag rugby and cross-country. We often remind our children that they are ambassadors for our school, and we are extremely proud of the values and sportsmanship they show at every event.

Our Key Stage 2 pupils also had an amazing opportunity to visit Exeter's Great Hall to watch the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform live. Experiencing a full orchestra in concert was truly memorable, and experiences like this are an important part of our commitment to providing a rich, inspiring enrichment curriculum. Our choir will soon be taking part in Wellington School's "Come Sing" event—another wonderful opportunity for our children to shine.

Looking ahead, we are excited to begin working with the Mental Health Support Team, as well as preparing for our Easter service and all the celebrations that come with this special time of year.

Our fantastic PTFA continue to support the school brilliantly. This term, they funded a wonderful entertainer for the children and organised a hugely popular WONKA Bar event for World Book Day, complete with golden tickets! They are now busy planning our Summer Fayre, which will take place on Friday 15th May—I do hope you can join us!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support for our school.

Tom Pettifer  
Head of School



## **The Bells and Bell Tower at St Mary's Church – UPDATE**

The first fundraising event of the year, the Ceilidh, appeared to be a great success, thank you to everyone who supported the evening, the hard work paid off and we managed to raise over £1,500, (only another 9 events like that and we will have reach the target), if only!

The Bell Ringing Team received great feedback and some people even asked – when is the next one, we couldn't ask for more than that.



Moving onto the next fundraising event – The Quiz Night. This event is a joint effort between the Bell Ringers and the Church. The main cost of the repairs needed in the Bell Tower is related to the Bell Frame and ongoing work is needed to prevent ingress of water into the Bell Tower walls (and other walls), so it makes sense to get all the work done at the same time, in conjunction with John Taylors & Co when they carry out the Bell work.

If you are free, willing and able to attend the Quiz Night on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April at the Village Hall, please contact either myself or Pat Bussey.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Lorna Rockett**  
**St Mary's Church Bell Tower Captain**

## Hot Cross Buns

Today, Hot Cross Buns seem to be available in supermarkets as soon as Christmas is over, and in recent years they have taken on more exotic flavours as well to suit all palates, although I'm not quite sure about the Tiramisu version!

Traditionally, they were baked on Good Friday and when I was a child, I can remember the excitement of collecting the red-hot buns from the baker after a Good Friday service and the gorgeous aroma wafting from the ovens.



It is said that the Alban Bun is the precursor to the Hot Cross Bun. Brother Thomas Roccliffe, a monk at St Albans Abbey developed a recipe in 1361 to feed the poor on Good Friday along with sac (wine). As you can imagine the buns were extremely popular and attempts to copy them spread.

Alban Buns are still made today and even appeared in a local supermarket on one occasion. The original recipe is a closely guarded secret and includes flour, fresh yeast, eggs, currants, grains of paradise (a kind of ginger similar to cardamon, which imparts a pungent black pepper flavour with a hint of lemon). The buns are cut with a cross as opposed to using the flour paste strips which are popular nowadays.

Hot Cross Buns were first recorded in *Poor Robin's Almanac* in 1733.

*'Good Friday comes this month;  
the old woman runs.  
With one a penny, two a penny,  
hot cross- buns.'*



There have been many versions of this rhyme over the years including this one from Devon:

*Hot cross buns, hot cross buns,  
One a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns;  
Smoking hot, piping hot,  
Just come out of the baker's shop;  
One a penny poker, two a penny tongs,  
Three a penny fire-shovel, hot cross buns.*

The buns were not always round, with one 19<sup>th</sup> century record of triangular buns and a cross on a bread dough didn't necessarily hold a religious significance. However, for those practising their faith today a bite from a Hot Cross Bun does hold a significant religious meaning – the bread is a nod to the wafer used in Holy Communion, the spices are symbols of the spices used to wrap Christ's body in the tomb, and the cross represents the crucifix.

Hot Cross Buns were also believed to hold magical healing powers. 19<sup>th</sup> century folklorists documented how bread made throughout the country on Good Friday had special healing powers especially for stomach ailments. In some places a Hot Cross Bun was hung from the ceiling for a year as it was thought it would never go mouldy – some of it being grated to treat the sick.



It is a tradition at The Bell Inn, Horndon-on-Sea, Essex for the oldest person visiting the pub on

Good Friday to hang a fresh bun to a beam.

Perhaps we can all enjoy a Hot Cross Bun on Good Friday whatever the flavour and keep the tradition going by remembering its significance.

## Simple Hot Cross Buns



### **Ingredients**

#### *For the buns*

- 500g strong white bread flour
- ½tsp salt
- 2tsp mixed spice
- 50g caster sugar
- 50g butter
- chopped into cubes
- 200g mixed dried fruit
- 7g sachet easy-blend dried yeast
- 200ml milk
- 2 eggs

#### *For the crosses & glaze*

- 3tbsp plain flour
- honey
- or golden syrup, for brushing

### **Method**

1. Tip the flour into a bowl and stir in the salt, mixed spice and sugar.
2. Rub in the butter with your fingertips. Stir in the dried fruit, then sprinkle over the yeast and stir in. Gently warm the milk so it is hot, but still cool enough to put your finger in for a couple of seconds. Beat with the eggs, then pour into the dried ingredients.
3. Using a blunt knife, mix the ingredients to a moist dough, then leave to soak for 5 mins. Take out of the bowl and cut the dough into 8 equal pieces.
4. Shape the dough into buns on a floured surface. Space apart on a baking sheet, cover loosely with cling film, then leave in a warm place until half again in size. This will take 45 mins-1 hr 15 mins, depending on how warm the room is.
5. When the buns are risen, heat oven to 220C/fan 200C/gas 7. Mix the flour with 2 tbsp water to make a paste. Pour into a plastic food bag and make a nick in one of the corners. Pipe crosses on top of each bun.
6. Bake for 12-15 mins until risen and golden. Trim the excess cross mixture from the buns, then brush all over with honey or golden syrup. The buns will keep fresh for a day. After that they are best toasted and served with butter.

## **Clerk's report of a Meeting of Luppitt Parish Council held at Luppitt Village Hall on Tuesday, 3 March 2026 at 8 pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Martin Summers (Vice-Chair), Charles Murray, Brian Pulman, Andrew Tucker, Susan Tucker, Yehudi Levine (EDDC) and Cathy Connor (DCC)

### **Receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Michele Turner (Chair), Paul Prettejohn, Colin Brown (EDDC)

### **Minutes of previous meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 3 February 2026, were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Murray and seconded by Cllr Pulman).

### **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **PLANNING**

### **Applications (for comment, support or objection)**

#### **25/2437/FUL – Agricultural building near Higher Wick Farm, Wick, EX14 4TY – demolition of existing large agricultural buildings and erection of a new dwelling house with access, parking and garden areas**

The Parish Council had taken a neutral stance on this planning application and had submitted comments to Planning East at EDDC. Whilst not objecting to the application, the Parish Council did have some concerns which were listed in the submitted comments.

### **Decisions**

**25/2163/FUL and 25/2164/LBC – Pulshays, Combe Raleigh, EX14 4UJ - approval**

**25/2437/FUL – Agricultural building near Higher Wick Farm, Wick, EX14 4TY – refusal**

**24/1631/CPE – Barns north of Wick Cross, Wick – Certificate of existing lawfulness - refusal**

### **Domestication of field at Pennythorne Cross**

Information has been forwarded to the Enforcement Officer who will investigate.

## **REPORTS**

### **Ward Councillor**

Cllr Levine advised that there will be a £4m hole in EDDC's budget next year. EDDC does not have a five-year land supply. There are various consultations being held over Local Government reorganisation but, as the Government has not yet indicated which proposal it finds acceptable for Devon, it is difficult to make any meaningful comments.

### **County Councillor**

- Cllr Connor advised that Highways are working at capacity but the continuous wet weather has made it very difficult to catch up on repairing the backlog of potholes.
- There is an urgent need for more people to come forward to foster children.

## **HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC**

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

- The clerk has reported the road deterioration from Barn Cross towards Beacon.
- The car tyres have been removed.
- The clerk has written to the Neighbourhood Highway Officer about surplus planings from road repairs for local use.
- The rails at Tapsterwater have been replaced.

### **Parish Maintenance**

- Some tins of white paint have been dumped in the gateway of the first field on the right coming from Luppitt Cross. The clerk will report.
- The Parish Council is concerned about an ash tree opposite Dolish Farm and Cllr Tucker, as Tree Champion, was asked to investigate. Cllr Tucker reported that there is an ash tree the Whitehall Farm side of Ford Cottages that will take the telephone wires down if it falls across the road. Cllr Tucker will investigate. Cllr Tucker reported that there is an oak tree between the sports field and Brookfield in Upottery. The clerk will report to the Upottery clerk.

### **Parish Maintenance Projects**

It was agreed that Cllr Tucker would send the clerk costs for the following:

- Blocked drain at Maple Cross. Despite contact with Highways concerning this problem over the last few years, no action has been taken.
- Blocked drain at Ringborough Cross.
- Blocked drain and clear concrete gutter from Ford Barn to Shaugh Road.

### **Road Signs**

Cllr Tucker was asked to erect the Slow Down signs in the village.

## **FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS**

- The clerk has contacted the footpath wardens concerning the annual survey of footpaths and bridleways.
- The clerk advised that procedures have changed and all issues identified as 'failed' paths must be reported via the Report a Problem page on the DCC website.

## **ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

### **Memorial Bench**

The clerk had received a request to place a memorial bench at Hartridge. The clerk will forward the request to the Commoners.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

After lengthy consideration, it was agreed to follow the format of recent years and hold the Annual Parish Meeting before the May Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 5 May 2026, at 7 pm.

### **Free Landmark Tree**

Cllr Tucker confirmed that the tree has been planted in Frank's Patch.

### **Bell Tower Fund**

Cllr Tucker proposed that the Parish Council donates £50 to the bell tower fund. The proposal was carried unanimously.

## **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **Casual Vacancy**

Details of the casual vacancy have been published in the Luppitt Packet.

### **Correspondence**

- An email about the Great British Spring Clean was noted.
- An email giving details of Devon Communities Together's training for Community Emergency Hubs was noted.
- An email from the Communication Officer for Richard Foord MP was noted.
- The clerk had received an email advising of a classic car event that will pass close to Luppitt on 11 April 2026 from around 9.45 am to 11.45 am. The clerk will forward details for insertion in the Luppitt Packet.

### **CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION**

There were no items.

### **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions and the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

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

**Tuesday, 7 April 2026**

**Tuesday, 5 May 2026 – Annual Parish Meeting at 7 pm**

**Tuesday, 5 May 2026 – Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council at 8 pm**

**Tuesday, 2 June 2026**

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 5 May 2026, at 7 pm.

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

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

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

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

Attendance at Annual Parish Meetings generally has been dwindling over recent years so please do come along if you can. Refreshments will be available.

## CASUAL VACANCY ON LUPPITT PARISH COUNCIL

Due to the resignation of Lindsay Hill, a vacancy has arisen for a Parish Councillor on Luppitt Parish Council. This is an opportunity for anyone interested in parish affairs to help shape and support the local community.

Luppitt Parish Council meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Our meetings are informal and friendly and last for approximately 2 hours. Various issues are discussed at these meetings including responding to planning applications and working to improve the quality of life in the parish. Luppitt Parish Council is particularly proactive in all aspects of parish maintenance with special emphasis on the many lanes throughout the parish.

A Parish Councillor serves for a four-year period. However, as we are part way through an elected term, the newly appointed Parish Councillor will serve until the next full elections are held in May 2027.

You can stand as a candidate to become a Parish Councillor if you are aged 18 or over and are a British, Commonwealth or European Union Citizen<sup>1</sup> **and** comply with at least one of the following:

- you are a registered local government elector in the electoral area in which you want to stand as a candidate;
- you have resided in the area for the whole 12 months preceding the day of nominations;
- you work in the electoral area in which you want to stand and have done for at least the past 12 months;
- you own property in the electoral area in which you want to stand and have for at least the past 12 months;
- you have lived in the Parish/Town or within 3 miles of the boundary for all of the previous 12 months.

You cannot stand for election if you:

- are bankrupt and an Order or Interim Restriction Order has been imposed;
- have been convicted in the United Kingdom, within 5 years before the day of the election, of any offence and have had a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of over 3 months without the option of a fine;
- have been convicted or reported guilty of a corrupt or illegal practice by an election court, or have been disqualified from standing for election to a local authority.

Please contact the clerk, Rosalind Buxton, on 01404 861565 or 07944 625025 if you have any questions. Alternatively, any of our Parish Councillors will be happy to speak to you and let you know first-hand what is involved.

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<sup>1</sup> A qualifying EU citizen is a citizen of a country:

- that has a bilateral Voting and Candidacy Rights (VCR) treaty with the UK
- is resident in the UK
- with any form of leave to remain, or does not require such leave.

Currently the UK holds bilateral treaties with the following countries: Denmark, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal and Spain.



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

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

**All are very welcome. For more information phone Ali Dominy 07810768557**

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S Jocelyn Burnell, 1989

*From Quaker Faith and Practice ~ 26.56*  
*available at <https://qfp.quaker.org.uk/passage/26-56/>*



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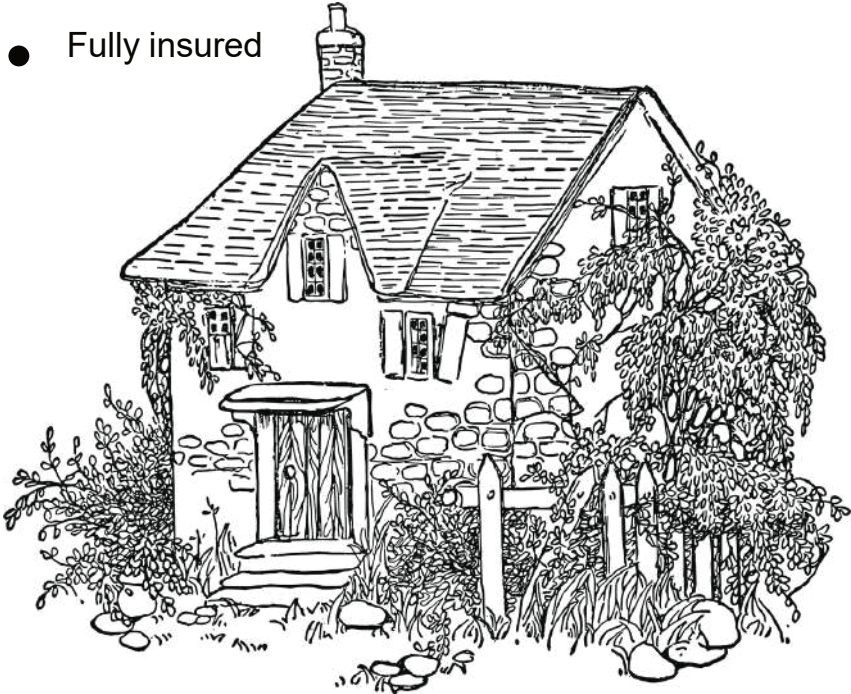
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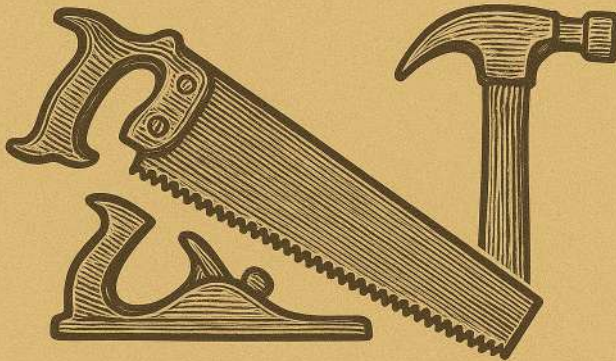
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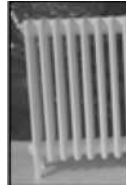
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