

Luppitt Packet
February 2026

Art by Julia Sparks

Axe Vale Orchestra

Rossini - Italian Girl in Algiers (Overture)

Doppler - Andante & Rondo
For two flutes
(Soloists Jane Smith & Suzanne de Lózey)

Dvorak - Czech Suite

Schubert - Symphony No 4

Conductor: Walter Brewster Leader: Jane Bultz

AV 3:00pm - Sunday
8th Mar 2026
The Feoffes Hall, Colyton
EX24 6JR

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.



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THE LUPPITT PACKET



Well, January and February certainly arrived with a vengeance! Between relentless rain, biting winds and the damp cold we can be forgiven for thinking summer is a long way off!

But we are at least past the solstice and the days now will start to stretch - before long we will see the real stirrings of spring arriving. There are already some early daffodils and snowdrops appearing and more of our gardens and hedgerows will come to life over the coming months.

We have some sad goodbyes in this edition with Barnfield closing and our resident Garden Jottings writer, David Street and the original Nature Notes writer Jacki Street departing to pastures new. We shall miss them and their contributions and wish them well in their new adventures.

We have a number of interesting articles to read this month - take some time to read all about the history of Fairy Tales and Snowdrops in mythology. We have purposefully not done anything on Valentines Day! That said - don't forget it on 14th February.....or you might be in the doghouse with your better half.

Christine Ryder, Michele Turner and the Luppitt Packet team

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Luppitt Entertainments Committee Events

Coming up soon:

Saturday 28th February: Skittles Night 7:30pm

Save the Dates!

Thursday 2nd April: Easter Bingo 7pm for 7:30pm

Sunday 10th May: Sunday Stroll 2pm,

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

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Short Mat Bowls 7.30pm Thursdays

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

The Luppitt Inn 7:30pm every Monday, Wednesday & Friday
*Early opening on Fridays at 6pm
(for a trial period)*

Church Cleaning and Flower Rota 2026

7 February	Pat Bussey
14 February	Mary Joyce and Pearl Pulman
21 February	Mary Hill
28 February	Sue Piechowiak

7 March	Jean Gardiner and Joy Tofts
14 March	Pat Bussey
21 March	Mary Joyce and Pearl Pulman
28 March	Mary Hill

THE LUPPITT PACKET IS ALSO ONLINE

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

DIRECTORY

Parish Council	www.luppittparish.gov.uk	
Chair	Michele Turner	07525 796197
Vice Chair	Martin Summers	01404 46845
		07748 780096
Clerk	Rosalind Buxton	01404 861565
	clerk@luppittparish.gov.uk	07944 625025
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Luppitt Commons	Kate Jarman luppittcommons@gmail.com	
Parish Notices WhatsApp	Lucy Murray	07968 900349
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Luppitt Entertainments Chair	Phil Smith	07984 735663
Luppitt Entertainments Sec	Pat Bussey	01404 892720
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Hartridge Buddhist Monastery		01404 891251
Surgeries	Blackdown Dunkeswell	01823 681720
	Honiton Medical Centre	01404 548544
	Honiton Minor Injuries Unit	01404 540540
Devon Air Ambulance		01392 466666
East Devon District Council		01404 515616
TRIP (community transport)		01404 46529
Citizens Advice Bureau		0344 411 1444

Location of defibrillators

Village Hall EX14 4RT

Lowmans Farm, EX14 4TX (near Red Doors)

GARDEN JOTTINGS

First thing in the morning I check the squirrels' peanuts in their box on the oak tree trunk. Since Christmas Early Surprise daffodils have been in full bloom down there, early really for daffodils. Winter flowering snowdrops have been out too since late November. Both the daffodils and these snowdrops came from a nursery near Taunton some years ago. They brighten the garden on a dull and frosty morning.

And the peanuts. Sometimes they have gone, all of them, sometimes just some. Who I wonder is eating them? Squirrels or maybe mice, even rats. There are still one or two squirrels about. Last winter peanuts were going like hot cakes. I was reminded of the old Latin tag, found not far from Rome. "Today I will drink wine, tomorrow I will without". (*Hodie vinum bibam, cras sine faciam*).



Early January is still too early to expect much growth, yet there are a lot of wild arums around with new green leaves.

I have enjoyed writing the Garden Jottings each month since about 2000. Jacki wrote Nature Notes each month before that. I am pleased that people have enjoyed them. Thank you.

David Street

THANK YOU DAVID AND JACKI

David and Jacki Street will soon be moving and this month's edition contains the last "Garden Jottings" from David. Jacki initially wrote Nature Notes and later handed over to David who produced his Garden Jottings - their contributions were always entertaining and informative, sometimes with added wry observations or non-horticultural 'asides'. The Packet Editors and all its readers would like to thank Jacki and David very much indeed for all these contributions over the last 16 years. A mammoth effort! Also Happy Birthday David - David hit the grand old age of 94 this week. In one episode, we even read of some of David's early history and experiences of the 1940's.

Jacki and David will be moving to Plymouth this year and we wish them all the very best for the future. We shall miss you.

The Packet Team

SKITTLES NIGHT

SATURDAY 28th FEBRUARY
LUPPITT VILLAGE HALL
FROM 7:30 pm
HOT SUPPER - BAR
£5 per head

Teams of 6 from different areas of Luppitt Parish (and beyond) are invited to pit their skills against each other

Please book by 21st Feb to confirm numbers: email luppittevents@outlook.com or phone Tracey Rosewell 891218 evenings





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



Rev Nigel writes...

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you

John 14:27

I do hope that you all have had a blessed Christmas. As we are now well into 2026, we look forward to all this New Year will bring.

Although it may seem a long time ago now, December was a wonderful month full of various different events, such as Christingles and Carol services. It was a joy to be involved in all that our community of churches primary schools did to celebrate Christmas. Thanks go to all the school heads/teachers/staff for their hard work and efforts on top of a very busy school term. Through the words from the Bible that were read and the carols that were sung we were able to bring alive the true meaning of Christmas all wrapped up the birth of Jesus Christ.

One event that really did bring alive the birth of Jesus was a Nativity in a Barn! Thanks go to the Stevens family at Connetts Farm in Dunkeswell who hosted us all and provided some wonderful refreshments afterwards. There were over 200 people in attendance, with the children able to dress up and act out the Nativity alongside the animals which made it a very special time. The highlight for me was when the lights went out and everyone was invited to turn on a battery tea light with the words 'Jesus light of the world on it'. This was to represent us reflecting the light of Jesus through our words and actions. Due to the wonderful numbers we didn't quite have enough tea lights but amazingly, people began to give people their lights away to others or to share their lights, which was very special, reminding us that we are not only called to reflect the light of Christ but to share it.

Although the Christmas season was filled with joy and expectation, for many it was a time of deep sadness, loneliness and remembering those who are no longer with us. Please do offer a prayer for those who are known to us who found Christmas a struggle, particular those who lost loved ones over this Christmas season.

As we look forward to this New Year and reflect on the words from Johns Gospel at the start, spoken by Jesus, I do hope and pray that each one of us is able to experience God's love, peace and hope for the world revealed through Jesus.

Every blessing

Rev Nigel Candelent
Dunkeswell Mission Community

Friday@4...
Throgmorton Hall, Friday 7th Feb @4pm

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

Messy Church
Does Pancake Day!!
Luppitt Village Hall, Mon 17th Feb

@ 10.30am

Come and join us for
Family Fun# Crafts #Music



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



“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

This year Lent begins on 18 February. It is traditionally a time of fasting and prayer as we remember the 40 days that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. In recent years it has been suggested that we might also take up something positive instead of just giving something up that might not be good for us. Thus we might strive to develop positive habits such as daily prayer, reading scripture, acts of kindness, charitable work, learning a new skill, spending quality time with loved ones, or practicing gratitude. These and other habits that can help us to grow spiritually and focus on what truly matters.

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

1 st	3:00pm	Afternoon Tea Church in the hall	Revd Nigel Candelent
6 th	4:00pm	Friday @ 4 in the Throgmorton Hall	Team Led
8 th	11:00am	Morning Worship	Revd Peter Horder
15 th	11:00am	Holy Communion	Revd Jane Penn
17 th	10:30am	Messy Church in the hall	Team Led
22 nd	10:30am	Breakfast Church in the hall	Lay Led
18 th	7:00 pm	Mission Community Ash Wednesday Service at St. Nicholas, Dunkeswell	Revd Nigel Candelent

FEBRUARY PUZZLE



Can you find all the listed numbers in this grid?

They may be written in any direction, including diagonally.

3	0	3	9	6	5	7	1	6	9	0	3	6	5	5
0	0	0	9	6	5	8	7	6	7	3	4	8	0	5
4	2	6	9	5	5	3	9	0	4	2	3	0	3	0
3	4	4	6	3	3	5	5	6	2	1	8	4	2	3
4	3	2	3	1	0	1	3	6	2	9	3	8	0	2
0	1	3	5	4	9	8	7	8	2	7	3	1	1	5
8	3	1	4	8	2	7	8	0	5	9	3	0	5	1
5	2	8	7	5	5	2	9	2	5	2	9	6	5	6
0	4	5	5	2	7	9	1	1	0	0	7	8	1	4
0	8	8	2	4	3	3	7	4	4	5	5	8	3	2
1	8	7	6	5	0	1	1	1	6	0	6	5	3	2
5	4	9	7	5	6	1	0	7	1	5	0	9	2	0
7	9	4	7	5	0	4	9	4	7	3	6	8	0	0
0	4	7	5	2	9	4	0	8	6	6	2	6	3	7
8	4	7	3	6	0	8	1	1	0	7	3	2	3	2

150395

197914

209935

232370

306423

350361

418700

422146

422677

526775

655336

678569

700224

716903

804340

821385

842313

859711

978581

9800

Spotlight... on Luppitt Carpentry

As part of a new series profiling our advertisers, (without whom we wouldn't be able to continue), we talk to local carpenter, Cam Gallaher of Luppitt Carpentry, who lives in Shaugh.



Like many carpenters, Cam started by in landscaping. However, he is also a musician and through a fellow musician he met a carpenter who runs the construction of 'Glastonbury-on-Sea', the iconic Victorian Pier big build at Glastonbury Festival. He asked to join the build crew and has helped there for about five years. This led him to meet more artist carpenters and two years ago he started working for a company based in Somerset, where he learnt joinery and fine carpentry, before branching out on his own. However, he will shortly be starting work with Ed Weech (another of our advertisers!) Cam now covers all aspects of carpentry, including general building, furniture making and also restoration. Last week he even turned his hand to restoring a couple of horse drawn carts! His work at Glastonbury means he is now an experienced set builder as well.



Cam has recently started building slate-roofed log stores, which are available to buy from him. They combine his love of joinery with roofing, which he enjoys. He also likes making finer detailed work, such as window seats and panelling and can see himself doing more furniture making in the future.

Asked if he's ever had any bizarre projects, Cam said that at Glastonbury he's been involved in the aeroplane set, which looks as though it has crashed into a building and has an engine made of washing machine parts and other re-purposed items! He even had to make a tiny mouse house with a hole in a piece of skirting board through which festival goers could peer to see a perfect fully furnished little room.

He still plays the guitar and drums in his studio at home and when I asked him if he'd like to make his own guitar someday, he replied that it is definitely something that would interest him. He recently worked in a workshop next to a guitar maker and was fascinated by the work. He would love to combine the two great interests in his life.

As you can see, Cam covers all aspects of carpentry from replacing barge boarding to very intricate work, so contact him if you have a project, or if you would like one of his lovely log stores!

Tell a Fairy Tale Day



Most of us remember the fairy tales we heard as children - the ones that fired up our imaginations and stayed with us long after bedtime. Many of us probably still have our favourites, and plenty have gone on to become famous Disney films. Tell a Fairy Tale Day, celebrated each year on 26th February, encourages children (and adults!) to join in by reading stories, acting them out, or even creating their own. Schools and libraries often mark the day with events based on these well-loved tales. But how many of us stop to think about where these stories actually came from? Some of them are hundreds, or even thousands, of years old.

What might surprise people is that many fairy tales were originally much darker and more complicated... and they weren't written for children at all. Like most folk stories, they were passed down by word of mouth or acted out, changing slightly with each retelling. Versions of the same story can be found in many different countries, often adapted to suit the time and place. The Brothers Grimm, who collected many of the fairy tales we recognise today, believed that European fairy tales came from a shared ancient cultural past.



Cinderella is a great example of this. Similar versions of the story appear in several cultures. One of the earliest, called *Rhodopis*, was written down in ancient Greece in the first century BC, though the story itself is likely even older. In this version an Egyptian slave girl is bathing when an eagle swoops down, steals one of her sandals, and eventually drops it into the lap of the king. He is so intrigued by the strange event and the delicate sandal that he sends his men to search for its owner. When she is found, he marries her.

There's also a Chinese version called *Yeh-Shen*, written during the Tang Dynasty (618–907 AD). In this tale, a young girl is badly treated by her stepmother and stepsisters, helped by a magical fish, and eventually loses her slipper before marrying the king.

The *Boy Who Stole Ogre's Treasure* is generally thought to be the forerunner to Jack and the Beanstalk and can be traced back 5,000 years. Many cultures have tales where a boy climbs a beanstalk to

steal an ogre's treasure. Similarly, versions of *Beauty and the Beast* and *Rumpelstiltskin* are as much as 6,000 years old. Some researchers say that *Hansel and Gretel* may have been inspired by the Great Famine (1315-1321) which led to child abandonment and even cannibalism.



It was Charles Perrault, who had once worked at the court of Louis XIV in Versailles, who decided to soften these stories and give them a clearer moral message, so they were more suitable for children. His 1697 collection, *Tales of Mother Goose*, helped popularise stories like *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Little Red Riding Hood*.

Earlier versions of these tales could be quite brutal. In the original *Little Red Riding Hood*, there is no rescue and she is simply eaten by the wolf as punishment for her innocence. The story was a warning to young women not to trust strangers. In the 19th century it was the Brothers Grimm who further adapted many fairy tales, including *Snow White*. They produced several versions themselves and in the original it is her mother, not stepmother, who is the antagonist and wants to eat Snow White's lungs and liver. She gets her comeuppance though, as she is forced to dance in red-hot iron shoes until she collapses and dies. In their version of *Cinderella*, the evil stepmother hands a knife to the eldest of her two daughters, and orders her to cut her toe off, "for when you are queen, you will never have to go on foot."



The prince is fooled and rides off with her, until two talking pigeons alert him to her blood-soaked shoe. The younger stepdaughter then tries to fool him by cutting off her heel, but the pigeons tip off the prince again. Ultimately, when he identifies the girl of his dreams, the two evil stepsisters attend the wedding hoping to curry favour, but the pigeons blind them by plucking out their eyes. A slightly more gruesome version, I'm sure you will agree!

One further thought... as many of our popular pantomimes are based on fairy tales, you might reflect on their history as you sit down to enjoy *The Good, The Bad & The Ugly Sisters* this month!

Minutes of an Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 18th November 2025 at 7.30pm

Attendees Mr B Pulman, Mrs P Pulman, Mrs T Rosewell, Mrs M Hill, Mr P Smith, Mrs L Rockett, Mrs J Hooper, Mr S Berry, Mrs J Hooper, Mr J Thorne, and Mr N Candelent.

Apologies – Mr M Summers and Mrs P Bussey

Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on the 29th October 2024 at 7.30pm were circulated, discussed, and signed by the Chairperson as a true record.

Correspondence

The Luppitt Commoners are hoping to choose a representative at the next directors meeting on the 10th December 2025.

Chairperson's Report

Mrs Tracey Rosewell (Chairperson) reported that events had been well supported by all age groups. She thanked the Treasurer, Secretary, and committee for their help & support.

Entertainments Committee Chairperson's Report

Mr Phil Smith (Chairperson) reported that 14 events had been held during the year including a quiz, Kids Movies, Ladies Film Nights, Skittles, Easter Bingo, Robin Hood Walk, Flower Show and Fete, Apple Day, and Harvest Supper with all events making a profit.

Treasurer's Report

BACS payments have been introduced. The Hub Pub has closed so takings are down. The Solar Panels are covering the cost of electricity bills. Insurance has gone up, and Lloyds Bank will be charging interest in future. A donation of £100 was made to The Luppitt Packet as a contribution towards advertising. Over £2000.00 was taken on card machine payments with costs of £117. A copy of the full accounts is available on request.

Election of Committee

Members chosen by their organisations.

Parish Council - Mr Martin Summers, Parochial Church Council - Mr N Candelent, Bell Ringers - Mrs L Rockett, Entertainments Committee - Mr P Smith, Luppitt Commoners have been unable to choose a candidate.

Election of more people from the floor

The following members were voted onto the committee en bloc:

Mrs P Pulman, Mr S Berry, Mrs T Rosewell, and Mrs J Hooper. Proposed by Mrs M Hill and seconded by Mr P Smith.

Appointment of Auditor

Batchelor and Co – proposed by Mrs T Rosewell and seconded by Mrs L Rockett.

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT AGM - TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2026 AT 7.30PM

At a meeting following the AGM the following Officers were unanimously elected.

Chairperson - Mrs T Rosewell Treasurer - Mr S Berry Secretary - vacant
Vice Chairperson - Mr M Summers Booking Secretary - Mrs J Hooper

THE BELLS AND SAINT MARY'S

A YEAR OF FUNDRAISING FOR OUR PARISH CHURCH

Our First fundraiser is for bell specific repairs

13th March 7:30pm Celidh Dance in the Village Hall

Further fundraisers are for repairs to the Churchbuilding, tower and bells

18th April 7pm Quiz in the Village Hall

7th June 2:30pm Wyndham Singers Concert in the Church

August/ September 2:30pm Garden party

Christmas Event

Plus

September Devon Historic Churches Trust sponsored Ride + Stride

If you can assist our efforts by running an additional event please contact Lorna Rockett or scan to donate now



Dunkeswell Mission Community: Lent Bible Study

You are warmly invited to join us on Monday afternoons from 23rd February until 23rd March at 2pm in the Dunkeswell Village Hall.

The studies are standalone so come to any or all.

Please bring your favourite Bible or borrow one on the day.
Refreshments available

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

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

Receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lindsay Hill, Colin Brown and Yehudi Levine (EDDC) and Cathy Connor (DCC)

Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 4 November 2025, 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)

25/2092/LBC - Little Thatch, Beacon, EX14 4TT – Replace 1 no. window in kitchen and block up and render 1 no. window in pantry on west elevation of kitchen

The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application.

25/1078/MFUL – Old Spurtham Farm Otter Falls, New Road, Upton, EX14 9QD – change of use of field and installation of 20 pitch bases for caravans for holiday use, access and parking surfaces, drainage, gas tanks, play equipment, bin store, sewage treatment plant, surface water drainage system and landscaping

This is a complex and major planning application which must be considered, not only in relation to Luppitt's Neighbourhood Plan, but also the impact it will have on the parish of Upton. The clerk will contact Planning East to request an extension to the time limit for comments.

Local Plan webinar for the emerging Local Plan for East Devon

This will be held on Tuesday, 16 December, between 6.30 pm and 8 pm. The clerk will forward details to Cllr Turner.

Local Government Reorganisation Briefing

The clerk will forward an email from EDDC with a link to the full proposal for the 4-5-1 model of Local Government reorganisation entitled 'Reimagining Devon: Believe in Better'.

REPORTS

Ward Councillor

Cllr Levine had sent a report which the clerk will forward to Parish Councillors. Main points included:

- an update on Local Government reorganisation;
- EDDC has commissioned an independent assessment of waste water treatment plants in the area.

County Councillor

Cllr Connor had sent a report which the clerk will forward to Parish Councillors. Main points included:

- an update on Local Government reorganisation;
- improved fees and allowances for Devon's foster carers;
- holiday activities and food programme for this winter.

HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

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

- Colehill to Messhayes (next to The Old Smithy) and above Goulds towards Hillend (W251911688) – do not meet Highways' criteria so no action.
- Colehill to Messhayes and pothole near Hillend – sent to contractor for inspection
- Potholes near parking spaces at Millrise – not Devon Highways – clerk will follow up.

Parish Maintenance

- The clerk will again report the state of the road at Jack's House which is causing a safety hazard.
- A letter has been sent to the landowner concerning the dead tree in the hedge near Goulds corner.

- Cllr Andrew Tucker has a supply of salt which he has been storing for some years. It was agreed that he should use this to fill up grit bins that have been reported to Highways but not yet filled.
- Cllr Andrew Tucker was asked to carry out work on lay-bys needing attention from Riggles to Matthayes and past Matthayes.

Grit Bins

Some of the parish grit bins do not appear on the Highways map. Cllr Pulman agreed to meet the clerk after Christmas to mark all grit bins on a map to submit to Highways. If possible, What3words will be used as a location for each grit bin.

Snow Warden

Cllr Pulman has agreed to continue as Snow Warden. The clerk will complete the up-to-date details for Devon Highways.

Tree Warden

- An email from EDDC regarding the launch of the Tree Champions' Canopy Cover Growth Scheme was noted. Cllr Andrew Tucker agreed to continue as Tree Champion (formerly known as Tree Warden). The trees planted at Frank's Patch are thriving.
- An email from Devon Wildlife Trust was noted. The clerk will apply for a free Landmark Tree.

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

Footpaths 62 and 14

Correspondence between the Parish Council and the Luppitt Landscape Trust Partnership was considered, especially concerning Footpaths 62 and 14 and the importance of avoiding any duplication in the future.

Pedestrian Gate

The clerk will follow up again.

ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Douglas fir tree in churchyard

The clerk had emailed suggestions for possible funding streams. Cllrs Murray and Prettejohn had separately inspected the site. It was agreed it was not a straightforward operation but it was also felt that the draft quotes that had been given were very high.

Banking Arrangements

It was agreed that the clerk would start the process of changing bank accounts from Co-operative Bank to NatWest.

Councillor Training

The clerk gave Cllr Susan Tucker a list of councillor training events due to be held in the New Year.

Projected Budget

The clerk is preparing the projected budget. There was discussion on possible repercussions from the Local Government reorganisation and Devolution, ie more responsibilities being passed to Town and Parish Councils without additional funding. The clerk pointed out that the budget for Parish Maintenance has not been increased since 2012. The clerk has been successful in applying for Highway grants in the past towards work carried out in the parish but funding streams are drying up or have dried up completely. Parish Councillors will take this into consideration when considering the precept for 2026/27.

CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

The clerk will meet up with Cllr Turner after Christmas to:

- continue to sort out the Parish Council filing cabinet in the committee room of the Village Hall;
- make sure all relevant Neighbourhood Plan documents are on the Parish Council website.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions. Cllr Turner closed the meeting at 9.20 pm and wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Barnfield Farewell Tea

As everyone will now be aware our residents at Barnfield will be leaving us due to its closure.

Those of us who either work closely with the residents or have met them, either at coffee mornings, church or other village events, will be aware of how much they have added to the community over the years.

A farewell tea party was held on Sunday 11th January which was quite an event with residents playing music for much of the time and all of us being able to enjoy a wonderful spread of delicious food - especially the various cakes!

A huge thank you to all those who contributed to the event, whether it was the organisation, running the raffle, helping in the kitchen or the provision of food.

We wish all the residents well on their new adventure.



ANSWERS TO CHRISTMAS QUIZ



1. Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh
2. Welsh
3. Stephen
4. Cinnamon
5. 16
6. Clara
7. Joe Pesci
8. Donner and Dancer
9. Monty
10. Finland
11. 5th January
12. Buddy
13. Gabriel
14. Japan
15. Holy night
16. Sheila
17. Christmas Market
18. 8
19. Lisa
20. 8 Maids-a-Milking
21. Kings College, Cambridge
22. Lump of coal
23. Batman & Robin
24. Oliver Cromwell
25. Turkey
26. Chesney and Katy
27. Feliz Navidad
28. 364
29. White
30. The Snowman
31. The Holiday Armadillo
32. George V
33. 1843
34. Brooms (as they believe evil spirits and witches awaken on this night and ride across the country on them)
35. Venezuela
36. 1957
37. Snowball
38. True
39. Charles Dickens
40. Capricorn
41. 3 (Dasher, Dancer & Donner)
42. David Tennant
43. Holly
44. Wattle
45. Coca-Cola
46. Indian
47. Montgomery-Ward
48. Wales
49. Calves
50. Mary & Joseph

2026 GRAZING OF LUPPITT COMMONS ROUGH SPOTS

The Directors of Luppitt Commons Ltd invite applications from those Commoners with the appropriate grazing rights to summer graze the Commons Rough Spots, including the reclaimed land on Hensemoor.

**It is expected that these will be available from:
March 2026 until 31 October 2026 for improved grassland
March 2026 until 1 December 2026 for unimproved grassland
These dates are subject to ground conditions being suitable**

Grazing of rough spots on Hensemoor (to the standards required as part of our Higher Tier Stewardship agreement) will attract a payment per head of cattle.

Apply via email to Luppittcommons@gmail.com

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS – 31st March 2026

Do You Know What You're Eating? (Or where it came from, and what's in it?)

So, let's say it's Summer and you're sitting down to your evening meal. Perhaps it's lamb chops, new potatoes and runner beans. The chops came from a trusted butcher or a local farmer, and the vegetables from your garden. Or, it's winter, and you're having a stew, with scrag of lamb or shin of beef with root veg. The meat from a similar supplier, and the parsnips, carrots and so on, from a reliable shop.



In these cases, you are probably perfectly happy about your ingredients. The lamb is free range, and the beef has not been routinely raised with growth promoters and antibiotics, (unlike the USA), and has been mostly grass-fed. Nothing there for you to worry about.

Now to different circumstances. You've been out all day. It's now late and you are tired and need to get something to eat quickly. Something convenient and easy. It's time to look in the freezer. How did we manage without these things? Perfectly well, if I remember correctly – for example, salted home-grown runner beans, which were actually not very palatable, or tinned or dried peas. These could be served with something out of tins like corned beef, Spam or salmon. Or it could be ham or bacon or scrambled eggs.

But these days we go to the freezer. Quick and easy... Looks like fish fingers or sausages. Other possibilities like chicken or duck legs are too much trouble at this moment.

So, it's fish fingers then. A big unknown. Are they worth eating, are they value for money, what's in them?

Cheaper fish fingers from continental or English supermarkets contain minced Alaska pollock. Does this description mean the whole fish is minced – head, skin, bones, fins? If it was minced fillet, surely the packet would boast about it. We shall never know...The fish finger is about 65% fish. It is produced by slicing blocks of frozen minced fish.



The fish finger was invented by jovial Captain Birdseye, as seen on his ads and packets. I don't think he was ever an actual captain, but he is (was?) a real person, Clarence Birdseye.

Clarence's product is considerably pricier than the supermarket versions. The fish content is slightly less at 58%, but is 100% cod fillet.

Even if we consider these are the best available (presumably Alaska pollock is cheaper than cod - or else why would it be used?), you are still not getting a large amount of actual fish. Each finger contains a slice of real fish, not minced, and is approximately 6 x 19 x 70 mm, not actually a lot of fish. And 42% of the finger is summat else. This is declared as breadcrumb coating (wheat flour, water, potato starch, salt, paprika, yeast, turmeric), rapeseed oil. The packet says that one portion is five fingers (140gm of product). I found one naked finger equals one mouthful, so for me one portion is five mouthfuls of fish. Not a lot. And in reality, I've never eaten only five. So that's the provenance of fish fingers. Are they value for money? How much do you value convenience?

And now to the other freezer quick and easy item - the sausage, the well known mystery-bag.



Perhaps you're wondering what is in a pork sausage, as was I? Legally, to be called a pork sausage, this must contain at least 42% meat. This is a miserably poor proportion, but non-pork sausages have to contain an extremely low proportion at 32%. Unbelievable.

So I'll buy some pork sausages with the minimum meat content of 42%. What, I wondered, is the rest of the 58%? The answer is variable depending on the particular brand. It is probably some or all of these: water, rusk, our old friends wheat flour and potato starch, barley flour, pea flour, pork fat, pork rind, wheat starch, yeast extract, soya protein, pepper, salt, sage, emulsifiers, preservatives, colour (cochineal/carmine). These are of course very cheap ingredients. Some will result in the sausage shrinking during cooking, by up to 50%. The water evaporates and the fats melt and stay in the pan.

If I buy 42% pork sausages, am I getting value? Prices vary widely but I think not. I might pay £2.50 for 454gm (1lb). If I price just the meat content, it works out at £5.90 for 454gm. However, I can buy 12 British free-range pork sausages with 98% pork, weighing 720gm for £5.75. This means I can buy more than one and a half times as much meat, at a slightly lower cost. It's a no brainer – cheap is not the same as value.



A further consideration is that you may want to support British farmers and buy free-range pork. The pork of cheap sausages is most unlikely to be free-range or higher welfare and can have come from anywhere.

Things could of course be worse, and in the past they sometimes were. In Victorian London there was a “licensed slaughterhouse in Smithfield where animals unfit for human consumption ended up. There ‘the sense of smell is not only assailed, but taken by storm, with a most horrible warm, moist, effluvium’. Much worse lay next door, where ‘you will find the largest sausage manufactory’, owned by the ‘brothers we believe’ of the slaughterhouse owner. The best of the diseased animals were quietly slipped over to the sausage machine, ‘to be advantageously mixed with the choppings of horse-flesh’ and ‘sold to the poor, in small lots by gas-light, on Saturday nights, or in the form of soup; and to the rich, in the disguise of a well-seasoned English-German sausage’. It was well known that retail markets sold diseased meats; Newgate market was more corrupt only in that it sold it wholesale”.

Most of the last paragraph, with quotations from Charles Dickens, is a passage from *The Victorian City - Everyday Life in Dickens’ London*, by Judith Flanders. (Atlantic Books, 2012).

If these descriptions horrify you, let me remind you that it is not really that long ago. My Grandparents were born in 1879, so were alive at these times.

So, let me now wish you – as my Grandparents were unlikely to have said, “Bon Appetit!”.

DS

Blackdown Hills Repair Cafes

Dates for this year’s Repair Cafes - all taking place at Hemyock Parish Hall

24th January 2026 - 10:00-12:45 hrs.

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

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 - spend some time outdoors growing organic/heritage vegetables, gentle exercise, no dig, take produce home for your dinner and share with our local community - everyone welcome! For more info: <https://www.facebook.com/BHEcoHub>

We’re also planning a practical biochar workshop on 20th February at the BH Eco Hub.

LUPPITT BELL RINGERS CEILIDH

A night of LIVE music and Traditional dancing!

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EX14 4RT

FRIDAY 13TH MARCH 2026

DOORS OPEN AT 7:30PM

Bar and Raffle

Advance Ticket:.....£12.50*

On The Door Ticket:..£15.00*

*per person

Food Included

Please contact Lorna Rockett

on 07894 072133 or

lornarockett@hotmail.com

OR

Phil Smith at The Luppitt Inn



Snowdrops in Mythology



It is widely assumed that Snowdrops are native plants when in fact their natural habitat is mainland Europe and the Middle East.

Snowdrops are said to have sprung from the earth after Persephone's return from the underworld, bringing life and spring after the darkness of winter.

A Moldovan legend describes a fight between Lady Spring and Winter Witch in which Lady Spring cuts her finger. A drop of her blood melted the snow allowing a snowdrop flower to grow. The pure white flower was a sign of Lady Spring's victory over Winter Witch.

A German folktale tells a different story. At the beginning of time Snow searched for a colour to borrow. As an admirer of the colour of flowers Snow asked for one of their colours, but the flowers' felt snow was too cold and unpleasant, so they refused. The snowdrop felt sorry for Snow and offered its colour. To show its gratitude Snow offered its protection from snow and ice, so they coexist as friends.

Snowdrops have many meanings and symbols associated with them – purity, and innocence as they bring hope for the new year. According to legend the Snowdrop became a symbol of hope when Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden. Eve was about to give up hope that cold winters would never end, when an angel appeared. He transformed some of Eve's tears into snowdrops, proving that winters do eventually give away to spring.



It has been suggested that Snowdrops were brought over by the Romans, but it is more likely that they were first introduced to the British Isles in the seventeenth century. It was the Victorians who planted them in woodlands, parks, and graveyards. The Victorians loved a bit of gloom and doom of course, so it became a

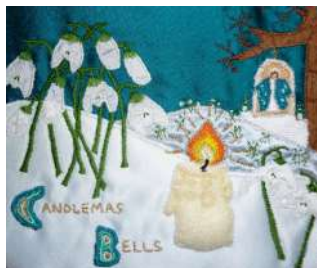
widespread belief that if you sighted a snowdrop, it was a sign of death and bad luck. It was considered bad luck to pick them and bring them inside your home. It was also thought that this affected the quality of cow's milk and discoloured butter!

Yet, they also symbolised sympathy because of their association with graveyards!

Snowdrops are also known as
Candlemas Bells.

*"The Snowdrop in purest white array,
First rears her head on Candlemas Day."*

Have you seen their heads are popping up out of the ground now – a small posy brings so much pleasure and hope!



 **EASTER BINGO**
**FUN FOR ALL
THE FAMILY**
Thursday 2nd April 7:00 for 7:30pm.
Luppitt Village Hall
***** RAFFLE *** BAR *****

The poster features a yellow background with a blue Easter egg on the left. At the bottom, there are silhouettes of plants and a rabbit.

The Luppitt Players

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The Good, The Bad & The Ugly Sisters

By Andrew Yates

A pantomime romp through the Wild West!

**12th, 13th & 14th FEBRUARY 2026
7:30pm at Luppitt Village Hall**

**Tickets:- Adults £10; Seniors £8; Under 16's £5
Box Office: 01404 891268**

**All profits will be shared to support two local charities.
Parental Minds & Hospiscare**

Clerk's report of a Meeting of Luppitt Parish Council held at Luppitt Village Hall on Tuesday, 6 January 2026 at 8 pm

Present: Cllrs Michele Turner (Chair), Martin Summers (Vice-Chair), Charles Murray, Paul Prettejohn, Brian Pulman, Andrew Tucker, Susan Tucker and 2 members of the public

Receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Colin Brown and Yehudi Levine (EDDC) and Cathy Connor (DCC)

Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 2 December 2025, were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Prettejohn and seconded by Cllr Susan Tucker).

Declaration of Interest

Cllr Andrew Tucker declared an interest in the planning application at Higher Wick Farm because he carries out work there and the planning application at Fairview Farm as it is his property

PLANNING

Applications (for comment, support or objection)

The meeting was closed to allow the members of the public to speak on the following item.

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 member of the public advised that they had not received any notification from EDDC about this planning application even though they were near neighbours. They were not aware of any other near residents receiving any notification either. The clerk was asked to follow this up with EDDC. It was not clear from the plans which agricultural buildings were being demolished. Cllr Turner undertook to follow this up and also whether or not there would be an agricultural tie on the new dwelling. The clerk will check the Neighbourhood Plan for compliance.

The members of the public left the meeting and the meeting resumed.

25/1078/MFUL – Otter Falls, New Road, Uptontery, EX14 9QD - Change of use of field and installation of 20 pitch bases for caravans for holiday use, access and parking surfaces, drainage, gas tanks, play equipment, bin store, sewage treatment plant, surface water drainage system and landscaping

Cllrs Turner, Summers and Pulman had carried out a site visit on Monday, 5 January 2026. Members of Upottery Parish Council and residents were also present. They were shown round by the applicant's representatives who did their best to answer all questions. The planning application represents a considerable expansion to the present accommodation already on site. It is appreciated that the business provides local employment and brings business to the area and the last expansion in 2021 has blended in well. However, there are concerns over lighting, screening and levels of traffic. There are plans to make the signage clearer from the A30 but Cllr Pulman feels strongly that the visibility at the end of New Road requires considerable improvement. Cllr Summers was particularly concerned about over-development of the area. The additional accommodation being applied for will result in a very large holiday complex for the area. The clerk will refer to the Neighbourhood plan and circulate draft comments before submitting to EDDC.

25/2484/FUL and 25/2485/LBC - Pulmans Farm, Beacon, EX14 4TX – Proposed extension to the north-east elevation of the barn outbuilding to provide a toilet and shower room, and reinstatement of a section of boundary fencing along the western boundary of the site between the residential curtilage and adjoining agricultural land

The Parish Council is aware that the appeal lodged by the applicant against refusal of the last planning application (25/0950/FUL) has not yet been resolved. It was acknowledged that the final decision on this application will rest with Listed Buildings and, on that basis, it was agreed it was not necessary to submit comments.

25/2609/FUL – Fairview Farm, Luppitt, EX14 4RY – Agricultural building to be used for a washdown area for agricultural equipment and agricultural storage

This is Cllr Andrew Tucker's planning application and he explained that this building is necessary to meet legislation on washdown areas for farms. Cllr Tucker left the room while the application was discussed and it was agreed that the Parish Council had no objection.

Decisions

25/2163/FUL and 25/2164/LBC – Pulshays Farm, Combe Raleigh, EX14 4UJ - Erection of a timber outbuilding, installation of an air vent on the front elevation of dwelling and new flue on chimney.
Approved.

Local Plan Webinar

Cllr Turner attended this webinar on 16 December 2025. The clerk will send round slides of the meeting.

Honiton Town Council meeting

The clerk will attend a meeting arranged by Honiton Town Council on Wednesday, 21 January 2026. The meeting has been arranged to explore further co-operation between the Town Council and neighbouring parishes.

REPORTS

Ward Councillor(s)

There were no reports

County Councillor

The clerk will forward Cllr Connor's report.

HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

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

- The clerk had reported the state of the road from Jack's House towards Luppitt Cross stressing that the road deterioration is causing a dangerous safety hazard. The clerk had received a comment from Highways that the fault could not be found. The clerk will follow up.
- Cllr Turner passed on some photos of the road deterioration from Barn Cross towards Beacon which the clerk will report.
- Cllr Murray will send photos of a particularly bad pothole by Ford Barn and Gullylane which the clerk will report..

Parish Maintenance

The clerk was asked to order a pallet of cold tar under the Road Warden scheme.

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

Pedestrian Gate

No response received. The clerk will follow up.

Cllr Andrew Tucker was asked to carry out work on the Wick to Stonehayes footpath and the Turf footpath.

ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Play Area Inspections

The clerk has received confirmation that these have been scheduled for March. She will forward details to Cllrs Pulman and Summers.

Free Landmark Tree

Cllr Andrew Tucker agreed to accept delivery of the free Hazel tree for planting in Frank's Patch.

Approval of Projected Budget and agree Precept for 2026/27

There was a long discussion about the level at which to set the precept. The Parish Council continues to work hard to keep ditches clear and drains running freely to maintain the lanes in as good a condition as possible. However, it was recognised that all costs have gone up and that funding (especially from Highways) has dwindled considerably or has been

removed completely. It was acknowledged that the planned Devolution bill and the Local Government reorganisation planned by the Government may result in more responsibility being passed to Town and Parish Councils. It was, therefore, agreed to increase the precept by £1,000 to £15,000 (proposed by Cllr Prettejohn seconded by Cllr Pulman).

Banking Arrangements

This item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Casual Vacancy

The clerk had received a letter from Lindsay Hill tendering her resignation on the grounds of ill health. The Parish Council very much appreciated Lindsay's contribution to Parish Council meetings and acknowledged that she has had a very difficult year health-wise. The Parish Councillors wished her a speedy return to good health and wished her well for the future. The clerk will start the process to fill the casual vacancy that Lindsay's resignation creates.

Correspondence

- An email from Devon Communities Together explaining they are now registered with Easyfundraising was noted. The clerk will forward details.

CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Cllr Turner had been asked by the resident at Greenway to show Parish Councillors their proposed options for the agricultural shed they need at Greenway, now that the appeal has been refused on the previous proposal, before submitting plans to EDDC. These were discussed and Cllr Turner will pass on the Parish Council's views to the resident.

Cllr Andrew Tucker raised the problem of surface water at Gullylane Farm which he would like to be minuted. There is a 9" steel tube which carries the water from the left-hand side of the road to the right. It is the landowner's duty to ensure the free flow of surface water off the road. However, the resident of Gullylane Farm does not want the drain to be freed, thus solving the problem of surface water on the road, and Cllr Tucker believes this should be noted.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions and the meeting closed at 10 pm.

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

Tuesday, 3 February 2026

Tuesday, 3 March 2026

Tuesday, 7 April 2026

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 Citizen¹ **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.

¹ 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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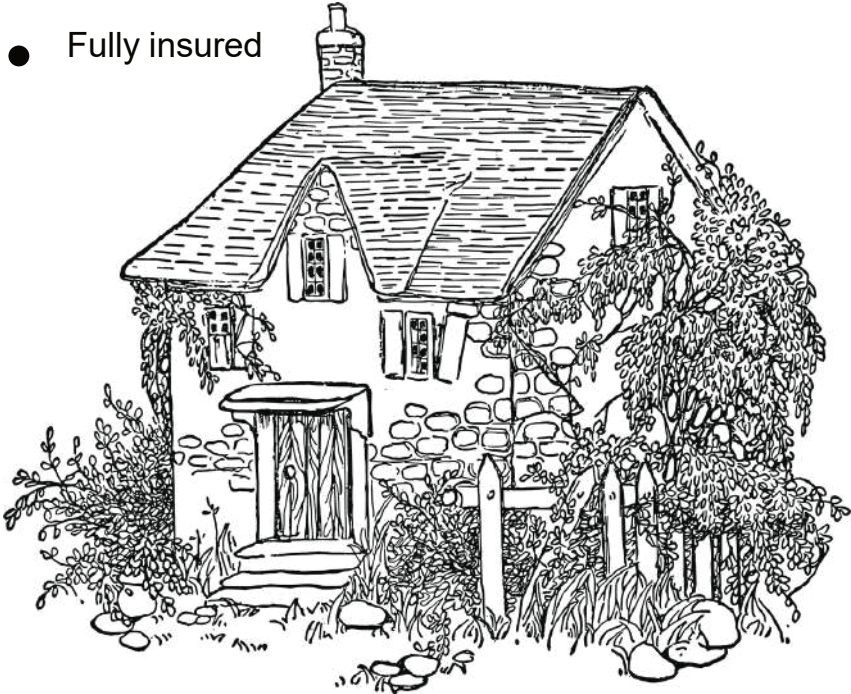
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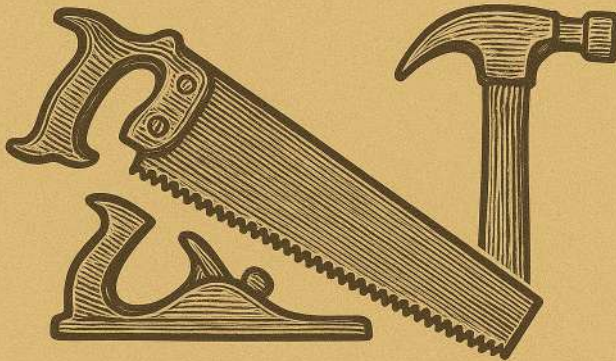
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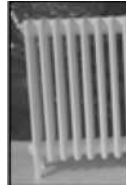
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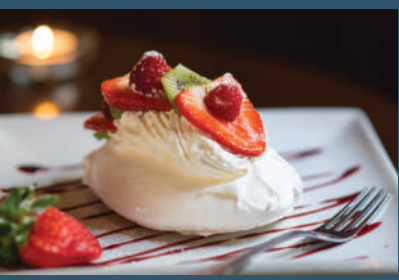
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