

Luppitt Packet
March 2026

Art by Marion Chown



LUPPITT BELL RINGERS
CEILIDH

A night of LIVE music and Traditional dancing!

LUPPITT VILLAGE HALL

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



SUNDAY STROLL

10th 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

**SUCCESSFULLY SELLING COUNTRY
AND VILLAGE PROPERTY IN YOUR PARISH**

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

HONITON
01404 42456 | devon@humberts.com

humberts.com
MOVING YOU SINCE 1842

THE LUPPITT PACKET - THE FUTURE OF OUR MAGAZINE

Since taking over the editorship of The Packet, we have been proud to keep the magazine running smoothly, producing 10 issues per year, on time and delivered free to every postbox. We have been delighted with the feedback we have received from Packet readers, who have told us, mostly (!) that they really appreciate the quality and quantity of content, the information it gives everyone about events and news concerning the Parish, and the brilliant work of our cover artists.

We have added extra quality, increasing the use of spot colour and a constant 4 page colour centre to best present event posters and supporting material.

But all that has come at a cost. When we first took over the magazine, it was clear that costs had been increasing and were beginning to eat into the financial cushion which previous editorial teams had produced. We have staged quite a few fundraising events, and thank you is due to all who attended and supported them. However, print costs have continued to soar and we are facing 2026 costs of £1000 above the year's income. We still have a small reserve left, but unless we can raise additional funds, that will not last long.

We plan to hold at least 2 fundraising events this year which should raise part of what we need to cover our shortfall.

How you can help

Firstly, we are a small team, so any volunteers to help with preparing, running and clearing up after our fundraising events would be very welcome.

Secondly...if anyone would like to make a small donation – £5 would help, £10 would be great. The Packet Bank Account details are:

Santander Account: The Luppitt Packet, A/C 74965181, Sort 090155

It really could make the difference between us having to cut back on the quality and frequency of the magazine or keeping it running in its current, well liked format.

Finally – If you would like to hold a small event of your own, as a fundraiser for The Packet, we would be thrilled and would support you fully.

If you have any questions or comments, just contact us at editors@luppittpacket.co.uk. Let's hope, with community effort, we can keep our magazine on an even keel.

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

Fun for all the family

Save the Date!

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

Church Cleaning and Flower Rota 2026

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

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

COPY DATE FOR THE LUPPITT PACKET APRIL ISSUE IS

19 March 2026 TO editors@luppittpacket.co.uk

Editors & Adverts	Christine Ryder & Michele Turner	
Treasurers	Mary Hill / Carolyn Earl	luppittpacketads@gmail.com
Distribution	Mandy Riley	07817517425

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
	clerk@luppittparish.gov.uk	

Village Hall

Bookings	Jean Hooper	01404 892969
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Luppitt Commons

Kate Jarman
luppittcommons@gmail.com

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

Nigel Candelent
revnigel@dunkeswell.org.uk

Associate Priest

Jane Penn
revjane@dunkeswell.org.uk

Mission Community Admin

Sara Bevan
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

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
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East Devon District Council		01404 515616
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TRIP (community transport)		01404 46529
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Citizens Advice Bureau		0344 411 1444
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Location of defibrillators

Village Hall EX14 4RT

Lowmans Farm, EX14 4TX (near Red Doors)

**Luppitt Commons Ltd
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 18th March 2025
Luppitt Village Hall
Meeting will start at 7.30 pm
All Commoners are welcome**

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

**SWALING OR BURNING OF THE LUPPITT
COMMONS 2026**

The Directors of Luppitt Commons Ltd hereby give notice of their intent (weather permitting) to burn parts of the Commons (Luppitt, Hartridge, Hense Moor) during March 2026.

The Commons will be burnt in accordance with the code of practice laid down by DEFRA for the burning of heather, grass, gorse and vaccinium.

St Mary's Church, Luppitt



As we journey through Lent awaiting the joyful celebrations of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Morning we warmly invite you, your families and friends to come along to our really special All Age Services.

Mothering Sunday will be celebrated at St. Mary's on 15th March. This will be the final service led by Revd Nigel in Luppitt Church before he leaves our Mission Community. Please do come along if you are able. Luppitt traditionally hand out posies of flowers during the service and there will be refreshments afterwards.

Everyone is warmly invited to the special Palm Sunday service at Upottery when we celebrate Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Those who are able please meet at the school at 10:40 to join the procession to the Church. After the service there will be a farewell bring and share lunch for Revd Nigel in the Manor Rooms.

Finally don't forget to come to Hartridge for the service at the foot of the cross. Help carry the cross up the hill or drive or walk along the top to see the cross erected and join in worship. Service location [///shuttle.sofas.cheetahs](#) point from which cross is carried [///retraced.seagull.covers](#)

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	Holy Communion	Revd Jane Penn
15 th	11:00am	Mothering Sunday	Revd Nigel Candelent
22 nd	10:30am	Breakfast Church in the hall	Lay Led

April Easter Services

3 rd	12:30pm	Hartridge Cross Service	Revd Nigel Candelent
5 th	11:00am	Easter Communion	Revd Jane Penn

Mission Community Easter Services

29 th Mar	11:00am	Upottery, Palm Sunday	Ministry Team
2 nd April	7:00pm	Broadhembury, Maundy Thursday	Ministry Team
3 rd April	11:00am	Wolford Chapel Service	Sara Bevan

Luppitt Bell Ringers AGM

Tuesday 24th March 2026

Taking place at the Luppitt Inn @6.30pm

All welcome to join us.

Lorna Rockett



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



Rev Nigel writes...

Jesus said 'Follow me' ... immediately they left their boat...and followed Him.

Matthew 4:20

Rev Nigel Announcement

At the end of the services in our six churches on Sunday 25th January, there was an announcement made. It was a letter from The Archdeacon of Exeter, who was writing to inform everyone that I would be stepping down as Rector of the Dunkeswell Mission Community, to take up the post of Vicar in the Benefice of Ilminster and Whitelackington in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. My last Sunday is due to be on Easter Sunday, 5th April. This move is subject to all the normal formalities.

The Archdeacon went on to say that he knew that this was not an easy decision for me to make and was made after much prayerful discernment. He hoped that everyone could hold both Liz and I in their prayers as we transition from here, leaving this ministry across the six churches to take up a new ministry in Ilminster and Whitelackington.

I do believe that I was called here to love and serve in these communities and feel a sense of peace that there have been foundations put in place in the years I have been here. I also believe that this can be built on and God has plan for you all in this next season.

Having spent nearly 16 years of my 19 years of lay and ordained ministry in town and village ministry, with my time here in rural ministry has added to that. My time here has been deeply rewarding and has been a privilege to walk alongside you all. All of these experiences over the years will be put to use as I prepare to minister in both town and village, in both Ilminster and Whitelackington.

In terms of what is next for the Dunkeswell Mission community, the Ministry team, both lay and ordained, lead by Revd Jane, will continue to provide ministry in all its different forms across the six parishes. The Archdeacon of Exeter is currently in conversation with the Church wardens and key member's of the churches where there are no wardens. There will be a process that will begin after Easter following my departure. More information on this will be given in due course.

Lent Bible Study

A reminder that our Licensed Lay Minister, Sara Bevan is leading a Lent Bible Study in Dunkeswell Village Hall at 2pm on Monday afternoons. This started on Monday 23rd February and will run each Monday until 23rd March. These studies are standalone, so do come to any or all. Please take your favourite Bible or borrow one on the day. There will be refreshments available.

Palm Sunday Joint service at St Mary's Upottery – 29th March 11am
Please join us...

One of the joys of serving across the six Churches has been the joint gatherings we have had on our fifth Sunday. This year the 5th Sunday in March is Palm Sunday. As it will be my last 5th Sunday in the Dunkeswell Mission Community, we have decided to Join St Mary's Church in Upottery. Please join us from 10 45 am for those who are able to,



we will have a Palm Sunday procession from the memorial in the village into the church. It will also be a service that I will be joined by my ministry team colleagues, Rev Jane, Revd Peter and LLM Sara as we lead the service together with music from the DMC worship band.

I look forward to being here throughout Lent and into Easter and do hope that I manage to get to see as many people as I can at some stage before I leave after Easter.

Every blessing

Rev Nigel Candelent
Dunkeswell Mission Community

Friday@4...
Throgmorton Hall,
Friday 6th March @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.

Luppitt Packet Distributor needed

We have recently lost a member of the distribution team and are looking for a volunteer who can cover the Barnfield area. This requires someone to deliver the Luppitt Packet to a small catchment area of the village for 10 months of the year. Please call Mandy on 07817517425.

Thank you - your help will be much appreciated!

FEBRUARY PUZZLE ANSWERS



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



Mothering Sunday



March is the first month of spring. The days are lengthening; there is an air of hope. It is a particularly busy time for the church with Lent and the approach of Easter. Mothering Sunday is celebrated in the middle of Lent on the fourth Sunday. It has its origins in the Roman Catholic processional custom of asking worshippers from the outskirts of parishes to make their way to the 'Mother Church' for a religious service followed by much eating, drinking, and merriment - something of a surprise in the middle of Lent! The day was sometimes referred to as Refreshment Day celebrating the Feeding of the Five Thousand. Once it was over fasting returned in earnest!

In the seventeenth century young servants on large estates were allowed to return home for the day. The Tiverton folklore collector Sarah Hewett describes a meal that a mother prepared the day before in anticipation of her children's return, again something of a feast with a hind quarter of lamb in mint sauce, a well boiled suet pudding, seakale and cauliflower, wheat furmity (a porridge of wheat with broth or milk) and home-wines.

Central to the celebrations was the Mothering Cake, which was rich, sugared and decorated. Sometimes a daughter who was in service would make the cake. The mistress of the house where she was employed provided the ingredients, The better the worker, the better the ingredients. It was also a way in which the maid could demonstrate her culinary skills to her family.

In mediaeval times the Mothering Cake was a simple bread mixture made from the finest flour; simnel derives from the Latin *simila* the finest and whitest of flours. During the seventeenth century the mixture was similar to a fruit cake which was firstly boiled, then six squares of pastry were used to make a cube The fruit mixture was transferred into the cube and baked. The pastry lid had to be secured using the 'cock crimp' in other words crimping it clockwise. A 'hen crimp' is when the pastry is crimped anticlockwise!

As years went by the and cooking methods improved the protective pastry case was no longer used and the Simnel Cake as we know it today with its marzipan layer in the middle, crimped marzipan top and marzipan balls representing the disciples (minus Judas) took its place. A delicious and lighter version of a fruit cake.

Very few people make a Simnel Cake today and posies of Devon violets or primroses form part of the celebrations with perhaps a Cream Tea. Cream first of course!



LUPPITT FLOWER SHOW 2026 Entry Classes

Potatoes White and Red
Carrots
Runner Beans
Courgettes
Tomatoes
Cucumber
Red Onions
Annuals
Perenials
Pansies

Sweet Peas
Roses
Dahlia
Cactus
Tree Fruit
Raspberries
Gooseberrys
Premature baby's Cardigan (2-3KG) to be donated
Cushion Cover
Geranium in a pot

LOOKING FOR A HOME

Is there anybody interested in quilting? I have several lovely books on quilting looking for a good home.

Jacki Street Catkins Luppitt. Phone 891396. "
Thank you.



FREE TO A KIND HOME THE LATE OLIVE CLAPP'S HEMINGWAY AND THOMAS UPRIGHT PIANO

Olive played many
a good tune on it.

Ring Eric on 01404 891386 or 07934906990

In Memorium - Beryl Hardwick

Passed away peacefully 2nd February 2026

Beryl and Brian, as newlyweds, moved to Greenway Farm, Luppitt in 1961, along with Beryl's parents and her two sisters. Her parents had bought the farm and Brian farmed the land. Their son Stuart arrived the following year with Sarah completing the family a couple of years later.

Both Beryl and Brian became actively involved in village life over the years. Beryl took part in many organisations, including the Packet, the Wives Group, church cleaning, organising charity dances, and much more. She was well known for her fabulous baking.

There was great joy when grandchildren Jack and Alex arrived. Beryl loved being a grandma and enjoyed teaching them to cook. After her parents passed away and Greenway Farm was sold, Beryl and Brian moved to Corner Cottage, when Brian retired. They enjoyed tending their garden and going dancing, while also continuing to take an active part in village life.

Around seven years ago, they moved to Payhembury, living in an annexe alongside Sarah and Paul. They greatly enjoyed this new chapter, making new friends and joining in activities there. More joy followed with the arrival of great-grandchildren Ella and Harry.

Beryl has always been a wonderful friend, known for her warm welcome, and a ready cup of tea and slice of cake. She has truly been a great asset to the community and will be sadly missed.

Jean Gardner & Shirley Crabb

The Spring Equinox



In 2026, the spring equinox in the UK occurs on Friday, 20 March at 14:46 GMT. This astronomical event marks the official start of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, when the Sun crosses the celestial equator, resulting in nearly equal day and night lengths. Following this, days become longer than nights. In the UK, this event heralds the official start of spring.

Wherever you are on the planet, the equinox occurs at the same moment. For those south of the equator, where the seasons are reversed, the event will mark the first day of autumn. It happens twice a year - in March and in September.

The word 'equinox' comes from the Latin 'equinoctium', meaning 'equal night'. On this day, the sun's path crosses the celestial equator, bringing nearly equal hours of daylight and darkness. It would be easy to assume that day and night would be of equal length of 12 hours each. However, that is not entirely correct.

At the equinox, the measurement is taken from when the centre of the Sun is at the horizon and there are 12 hours between sunrise and sunset. The top edge of the Sun is visible first at sunrise and last at sunset. Due to light refraction, there is still light for a short time even when the sun is no longer visible. This adds a little extra time to daylight hours. In spring, this means that the date when day and night are actually equal happens before the equinox - known as the equilux which means "equal light".

The equinox has been celebrated since ancient times. Sites like Stonehenge are aligned with the sunrise on the equinox highlighting its importance. Pagans and Druids often gather to mark the occasion, celebrating themes of rebirth and fertility.

Psychologically it is often seen as a time of renewal and growth, as the cold of winter gives way to warmer, brighter days.

MARCH PUZZLE



42
-5
+17
÷9
+6
÷4
= ?

10
+50%
$\times \frac{1}{3}$
$\times 11$
$\times \frac{3}{5}$
÷11
= ?

122
-71
$\times \frac{1}{3}$
+196
÷3
+165
= ?

Start with the number at the top of each chain, then apply each operation in turn until you reach the last box, writing your answer at the bottom. Try to complete the entire chain without using a calculator or making any written notes!



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

When? Saturday 18th April at 7PM

Where? Luppitt Village Hall

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

How much? £6 per person



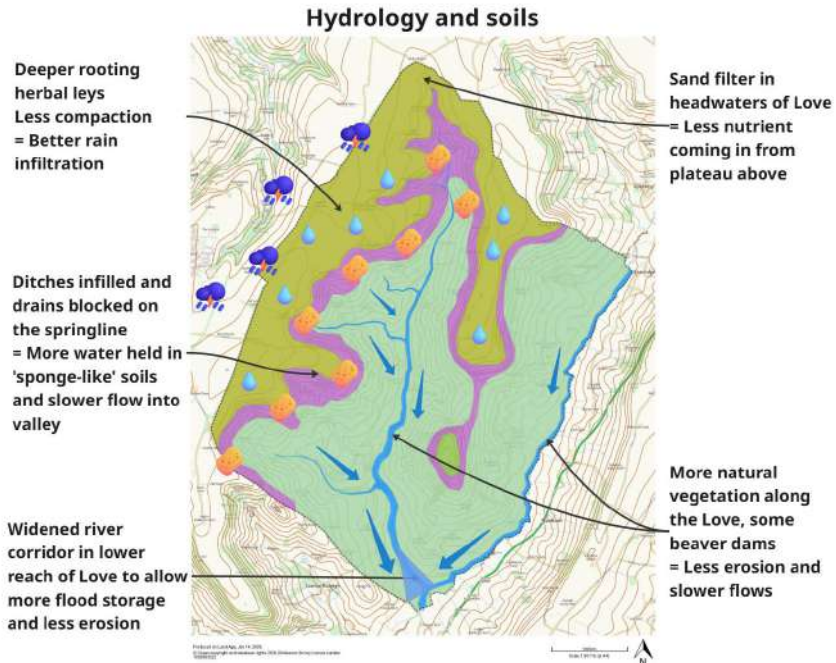
To book please call or WhatsApp Pat Bussey on 07747 624433 or Lorna Rockett 07894 072133

LUPPITT LANDSCAPE RECOVERY

On 16th February over 50 people from the participating holdings in the Luppitt Landscape Partnership gathered at the Village Hall for a final meeting before the LLP submits its plans to DEFRA at the end of March.

The following images summarise the project's overall plans for the Luppitt valley, showing how they will influence the plateau, scarp slope, lower valley and river corridor, under four headings: hydrology and soils; biodiversity; farming and community.

Once the plans are submitted we will provide more information about the detail of the project's proposals. We then go into a long period of negotiation with DEFRA, which if successful should enable the project to begin being implemented in early 2027.



Biodiversity

More field margins and pollinator habitat on plateau

More flower- and insect-rich wet ground on springline

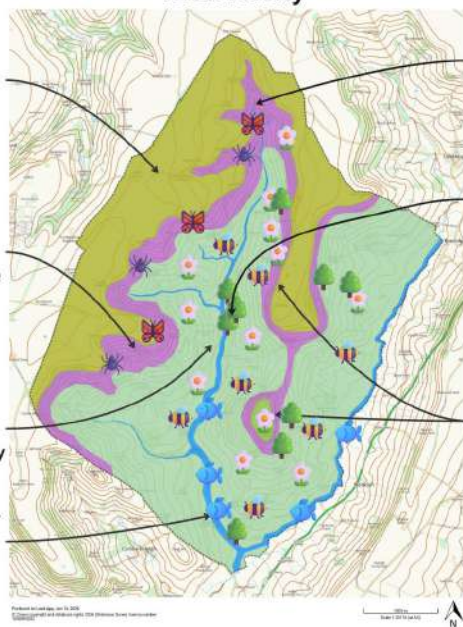
More flower-rich meadows and pastures in the valley

Better conditions for salmonid fish on the Rivers and streams

Hense Moor SSSI more diverse and secure

More woodland established

More diverse habitat on Hartridge and Dumpdon



Farming

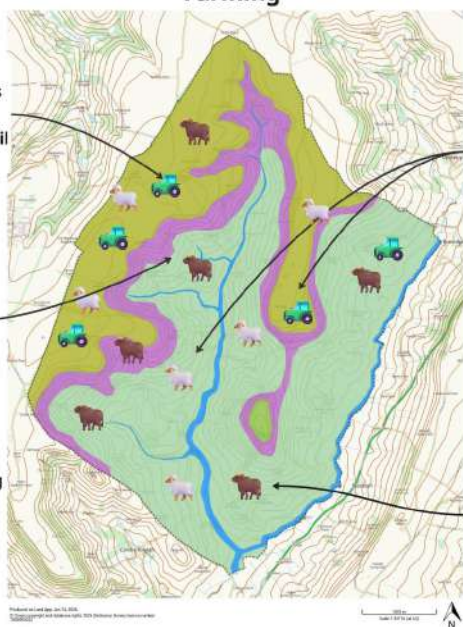
More productive and sustainable rotations on the best ground, through improved soil health

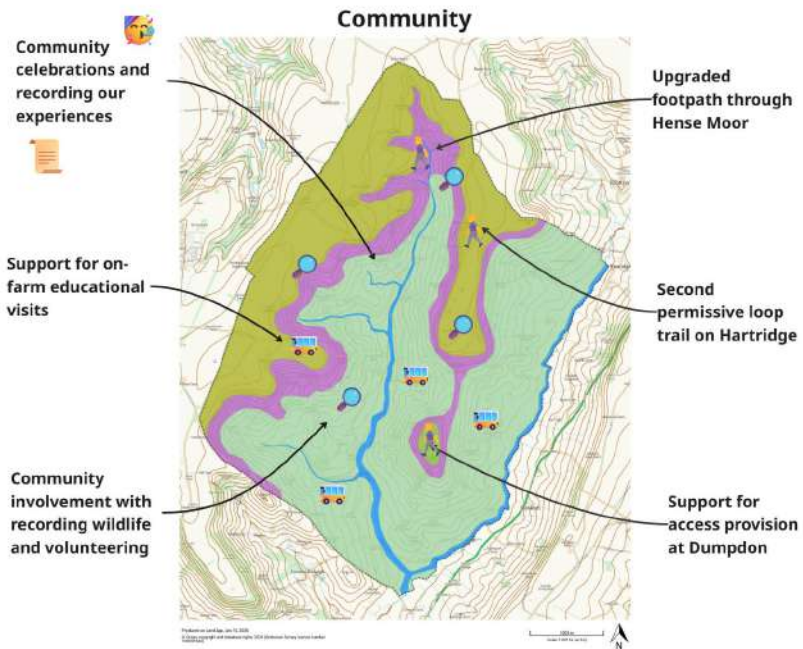
Further development of Community Lab

Peer-to-peer learning programme for sharing experience

More reliance on legumes in swards and lowered inputs, on Commons and lower valley

More conservation cattle grazing on flower-rich pastures and springline





**In Memorium - Celia Riley
Passed away 9 January 2026
Funeral is at East Devon Crematorium on 6 March**

Celia and her husband Doug moved into Luppitt over 40 years ago in the late 1980s. They both loved gardening and Celia had the appropriate nickname of Digger for Doug. They were both involved in village events and Celia took part in the Luppitt Wives meetings as well as taking part in a couple of pantos during her time in the village. They both enjoyed playing cards and games with friends.

Celia remained fiercely independent and lived until she was 96.

She will be missed by all her friends in Luppitt

Pearl Pulman

The Bells and Bell Tower at St Mary's Church - UPDATE

We have now finally received the quote for the work that needs to be carried out to the Bells and Bell Tower as a result of the Church Architects Report early last year and the subsequent inspection carried out last October by John Taylor & Co – Bellfounders & Bellhangers. The work that needs to be done will cost a total of £14,866.80! Yes I am afraid you read that correctly, almost £15,000. As a result of this, our fundraising efforts will need to step up a gear.

The first of our fundraising events being the Ceilidh Dance on Friday 13th March, that I am sure you have already heard about and of course already bought your ticket for! Please dust off those dancing shoes and join us for a fun filled evening. Food is included in your ticket price, a licensed bar is available and of course a good old raffle. Some of the prizes already lined for the raffle are:

Prize Details	Donated By
Fire & Ice Experience & Bottle of Champagne	Torquay Leisure Resort
Weekend Camping Tickets at Devon Truck Show	Devon Truck Show
Garden Machinery Service (T's & C's apply)	Paul Prettejohn
Two Adult Honiton Show Tickets	Honiton Show
Otter Brewery Presentation Box	Otter Brewery
Gift Voucher for Free MOT	Otter Vale Motor Services
Gift Voucher	The York Inn
Gift Voucher	The Sidmouth Arms
£25 Gift Voucher	Ali's Kebabs - Honiton
Voucher for Cream Tea for Two	Otter Nurseries
Bottle of Whisky	Deane Crabb
Sewing Box	Jean Gardner
Weekend Bag	Jean Hooper

The money raised from this event will go directly towards the Bell Frame repairs.

Tickets are still available for the Ceilidh, so if you haven't yet got your ticket then please contact me on 07894 072133 or Lornarockett@hotmail.com. As you also already know the Bell Ringers and the Church are joining forces to raise money during 2026 and together we are having further fundraising events. Confirmed so far are:

Saturday 18th April - Quiz in the Village Hall

Sunday 7th June - Concert with the Wyndham Singers in the Church

Please save these dates in your diary !

Thanks in advance of your support during 2026.
Lorna Rockett
St Mary's Church Bell Tower Captain

Axe Vale Orchestra

Rossini - *Italian Girl in Algiers* (Overture)

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

Dvorak - *Czech Suite*

Schubert - *Symphony No 4*

Conductor: Walter Brewster Leader: Jane Bultz

AV 3:00pm - Sunday
8th Mar 2026
The Feoffees 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.

JOIN US FOR OUR
WINE & WISDOM
HOSTED BY
Upottery Football Club
FRI 6TH MAR 2026 8PM
At the MANOR ROOMS, UPOTTERY.
Doors open 7pm

£7/person, Max
6 per Team

By Mar 2nd to Merv Sawyer
Email:
mervyn.sawyer@btinternet.com
07894 470024

**Includes Food & a
Bottle of Wine Per
Table**



Blackdown Hills Repair Cafes

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

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>



EASTER BINGO

**FUN FOR ALL
THE FAMILY**

Thursday 2nd April

7:00 for 7:30pm.

Luppitt Village Hall

***** RAFFLE *****

***** BAR *****



WHERE DO WE LIVE? THIS IS FOR KIDS OF ANY AGE

The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams - "Space," it says, "is big. Really big. You just won't believe how vastly, hugely, mindbogglingly big it is. I mean, you may think it's a long way down the road to the chemist's, but that's just peanuts to space."

Our home address, Luppitt Parish (population ~ 1000), is on a small island off the coast of Europe, planet Earth. Our sun is just one middling size star out of 100-400 billion stars in our very own Milky Way spiral galaxy. As *The Hitchhikers Guide* put it - "Far out in the uncharted backwaters of the unfashionable end of the western spiral arm of the Galaxy lies a small unregarded yellow sun. Orbiting this at a distance of roughly ninety-two million miles is an utterly insignificant little blue-green planet whose ape-descended life forms are so amazingly primitive that they still think digital watches are a pretty neat idea".

Earth, our modest blue-green planet, is just a tiny dot of accumulated rocky space debris which gradually stuck together and, over about 4.5 billion years, became a planet. Mankind (*Homo Sapiens*), has been around for only 200-300 thousand years, 0.000075% of Earth's history. A picture of Earth, our home planet, taken by NASA Voyager 1 space probe through the rings of Saturn, shows planet earth Saturn, shows planet earth as a tiny insignificant blue dot.



**Planet Earth - the dot,
seen through the rings
of Saturn, from 1 billion
kms away**

Until the 1920's, the stars in our own Milky Way galaxy were all we knew about. We thought that was the lot. The Milky Way is a spiral galaxy, and contains between 100-400 billion (400,000,000,000) stars and between 1 to 3 trillion (3,000,000,000,000) planets.

But in 1920 Edwin Hubble identified a galaxy beyond our own. This first galaxy to be identified is the Andromeda spiral galaxy.



The Milky Way – our galaxy is spiral, seen side on from Earth (ESO Observatory)

The Andromeda galaxy – Hubble telescope image



Since Hubble's first observation, astronomers have identified that the '*known*' universe in fact contains about 2 trillion galaxies – some being many times bigger than our Milky Way. That adds up to... a mind boggling -

800,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars

But remember, the light that we see coming from the furthest reaches of the '*known*' universe has been travelling for about 13 billion (13,000,000,000) years to arrive, and started out when the universe was very young. By the time that light reaches our telescopes, the objects we see are long gone! So our telescopes are essentially time machines which enable us to look back into the past. The distance from us to the edge of the '*known*' universe is roughly 4.4×10^{23} kms, and beyond that limit light cannot, and never will, reach us.

The universe may or may not be infinite, and its true size is the one thing we can never know.

Nigel Hurst

For more amazing images visit:

NASA Voyager <https://science.nasa.gov>

Hubble <https://esahubble.org/images/archive/>

James Webb telescope images

A Resounding Success!

Mary Ann McCaig

Well “Oh yes we did” enjoy the Panto so much! Thank you to all you keen Theatrical locals who are carrying on the wonderful tradition of local pantomime! I did my stint at the beginning, and loved every moment, though line learning was very difficult!! I'm not sure which was best, the stress and adrenaline of performing, or the relaxation of just sitting back and relaxing, “Oh yes I did!” with husband beside me telling me not to participate as much, but what are Pantos for!

A wonderful evening, with memories of 7 Dwarfs and poor Cinderella; where would we be without Jean and her magic needles, Sue and Peter and her aspiring tribe and Steve, and of the rest of the cast, as for Rattlesnake and Nugget, and Raph, what lines! With make up so good it would be lovely to see a photo of the cast without makeup, so I could put names to faces!!!!

Too much fun to help us through this wet days.....



Photography by Trevor Bevan

“The light music of whiskey falling into a glass – an agreeable interlude.”

James Joyce, *Dubliners*



Those who are of Scottish heritage will probably disagree, but *Uisce/Uisge na Beatha* which translates as ‘water of life’ and has been shortened and corrupted over the years to give Whisk(e)y its name, is generally thought to have originated in Ireland around 1405, with the first mention appearing in the Annals of Clonmacnoise. Experts think it was possibly even in the 12th century that Irish monks introduced the art of distillation for medicinal purposes. Whichever country can lay claim to the birth of the spirit, few would disagree that it is globally popular

and variations are now distilled in countries such as Japan, Canada, India, Taiwan, Tasmania, France, Czechia, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa as well as England (there are now 24 English whiskies, including Devon’s only distillery, Dartmoor Whisky) and Wales. The USA is of course famous for its Bourbon and Tennessee whiskies. Not that connoisseurs of the spirit would turn down a dram at any time, but the fact that International Whisky Day falls on 27 March is an added incentive.

The main difference between Scotch whisky and Irish whiskey is that the Scots tend to distil their spirit twice and the Irish three times. Scotch must be aged in the barrel for a minimum of three years and the Irish (not to be outdone) insist the minimum must be three years and one day!

Whiskey production is seeing a resurgence in Ireland and the island now has about 50, mainly artisan, distilleries. In Scotland there are about 150, spread over five distinct regions – Speyside, Islay, Highlands, Lowlands and Campbeltown, plus the unofficial “Islands” region. Each has a very distinct flavour, due to the local water and conditions.

- ❑ **Speyside:** Located in the northeast, this is the most densely populated region, producing over half of Scotland’s malt whisky. Known for being sweet and fruity, featuring notes of apple, pear, honey, vanilla, and spice, e.g. Glenfiddich.
- ❑ **Islay:** (eye-luh). Known for bold, smoky, and peaty flavours, often with medicinal, salt, and seaweed notes, e.g. Laphroaig.
- ❑ **Highlands:** The largest region geographically, offering incredible diversity, ranging from lighter, fruity malts in the south to coastal, salty, and peaty whiskies in the north, e.g. Glenturret.



- **Lowlands:** Located in the south, these whiskies are often lighter, with floral, grassy, and delicate flavours, sometimes referred to as "Lowland Ladies", e.g. Auchentoshan.
- **Campbeltown:** Formerly a bustling "whisky capital," this tiny region on the Kintyre peninsula produces distinct, robust, and often briny whiskies, e.g. Springbank.
- **Islands (Unofficial):** Often grouped with the Highlands, this includes distilleries on islands like Skye, Orkney, and Jura, often producing smoky or maritime-influenced whisky, e.g. Talisker.

The climate also affects how much whisky is lost during maturation. Whisky distillers call the amount that evaporates the "angel's share" and this can range from about 1% to 3% for each year the spirit is stored in the barrel. In warmer climates like that of Kentucky, the amount can be as much as 10%. In contrast, a certain amount also seeps into the wood of the barrel and this is commonly known as the "devil's cut".

If you enjoy your Scotch and have a spare £125,000, you may enjoy a decanter (one of only 125) of one of the world's oldest single malt whiskies. It is an 85-year-old Glenlivet and is available thanks to the foresight of a father and son who laid down an oak cask in 1940, in order for it to be enjoyed by future generations. A claim to the oldest is possibly the cache of 40 bottles discovered at Blair Castle in Perthshire in 2022. It was distilled in 1833, bottled in 1841 and then rebottled in 1932. At auction in 2023 bottles sold for up to £19,500.



History records several accidents associated with the production of whisky. In 1906 there was the Great Gorbals Whisky Flood when over 150,000 gallons of red-hot whisky from three massive vats escaped and engulfed the distillery yard and a neighbouring street in Glasgow, causing

the death of one man and a narrow escape for many others. A similar river of escaped whiskey had occurred in Dublin in 1875 when a fire broke out in a warehouse, causing barrels of spirit to explode and sending a burning river down the streets and destroying 35 houses. Unfortunately, 13 people died because of this incident – not due to the fire or flood, but to drinking from the stream of whiskey, which was of undiluted cask strength!

This was perhaps a warning, if one were needed, that you should take your whisk(e)y in moderation, but it does perhaps have a medicinal use. As a famous Irish proverb says, "**What whiskey will not cure, there is no cure for.**" And finally, as you ponder on the weather we have been having recently, you would do well to remember that the Scots say "**Today's rain is tomorrow's whisky**".

Cranachan

Ingredients

- 570ml double cream
- 85g porridge oats
- 7 tbsp whisky
- 3 tbsp honey
- 450g raspberries
- fresh mint, to garnish



Method

1. Toast the oats in a frying pan, being careful not to burn them.
2. Lightly whip the cream until it reaches the soft peak stage, then fold in the whisky, honey, oatmeal and raspberries.
3. Serve in dessert glasses garnished with a few raspberries and mint.

Chicken and pork terrine with whisky, cranberries and pistachios

Ingredients

- 30g dried cranberries
- 6 tbsp whisky
- 18-22 rashers smoked streaky bacon
- 750g pork mince
- 125ml double cream
- ½ nutmeg, grated
- 2 large free-range chicken breasts, halved horizontally
- 50g shelled unsalted pistachios
- 2 pickled walnuts, thinly sliced
- Melba toast, pickled caperberries, cornichons and cocktail onions to serve



Method

1. Heat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan/gas 4. Put the cranberries and whisky in a small pan and warm through. Set aside to cool.
2. Line a 900g loaf tin with the bacon, slightly overlapping the slices to make a good seal and leaving some overhanging at the ends and sides. Reserve a few.
3. Strain the whisky from the cranberries into a bowl (set berries aside), add the mince, cream, nutmeg and season well. Mix with your hands.
5. Spoon half the pork mixture over the base of the terrine, scatter over half the cranberries. Put 2 pieces of chicken on top to cover, then sprinkle with half the pistachios and the pickled walnuts. Cover with the rest of the chicken, pistachios and cranberries, then the remaining pork mixture. Fold the overhanging bacon to cover and use the extra rashers to seal the terrine.
6. Cover the terrine with foil, put on a baking tray and bake for 1 hour 20 minutes. Remove from the oven, uncover and leave to cool briefly, then pour off and discard any cooking juices. Bake the uncovered terrine for 15 minutes to brown the bacon. Insert a skewer and check the juices run clear, then set aside.
7. Meanwhile, cut a piece of card to fit the top of the terrine, wrap in foil, then put on top of the terrine with a few unopened cans on top to weigh it down. Leave to cool, then chill (weighted down) overnight in the fridge.
8. Serve the terrine in slices with toasts, caperberries, cornichons and onions.

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

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

Receive apologies for absence

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

Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 6 January 2026, were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Summers and seconded by Cllr Prettejohn).

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 requested further information about this planning application but none had been forthcoming. There were several areas of concern that were discussed including:

- non-resolution of the Certificate of Lawfulness for the steel fabrication business;
- when an agricultural building is demolished the land reverts to a greenfield site;
- the size of the house;
- an agricultural tie on the dwelling;
- impact on the landscape;
- reassurance that the dwelling will be for residential use and not holiday accommodation.

The clerk will establish the deadline for comments.

25/1078/MFUL – Old Spurtham Farm, Otter Falls, New Road, Upottery, EX14 9QD – change of use of field and installation of 20 pitch bases for caravans for holiday use

The Parish Council had taken a neutral stance on this planning application. Whilst recognising that this is a well-established business that provides local employment and brings business to the area, there are several areas of concern which have been included in comments submitted to EDDC. The clerk had received communications from some Rawridge residents.

Decisions

Appeal Ref 6001090 – Pulmans Farm, Beacon, EX14 4TX

The appeal was dismissed.

REPORTS

Ward Councillor

Cllr Turner welcomed Cllr Levine back. Cllr Levine brought the Parish Council up to date with the difficult financial situation that EDDC will be in as a result of the Government's Fairer Funding Review which has been most beneficial to London, whereas EDDC will lose 50% in the first year.

County Councillor

There was no report.

HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

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

- The clerk had written to the Neighbourhood Highway Officer to complain about the state of the road from Jack's House to Luppitt Cross. The NHO advised that they are aware of the need for repair. Cllr Murray advised that he had seen some repair being carried out in the last few days.
- The clerk will enquire about the availability of plantings for local use.
- The clerk will report a blocked drain at Maple Cross.
- The clerk will report the rails at Tapsterwater that have been washed away and need to be replaced.
- Car tyres have been dumped at the roadside. The clerk will report.

Parish Maintenance

- The clerk had been contacted by a resident who had noticed a gas marker pole which appeared to have been swept into a field after the recent flooding.
- The resident had also mentioned a blocked pipe under the road by The Barn, Ford Bridge. Cllrs Pulman and Tucker undertook to investigate.

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

Annual Survey of Footpaths

The clerk reported that there have been alterations to the annual survey. The clerk will liaise with the footpath wardens.

Cllr Tucker has carried out repair work to footpaths at Wick Green and Turf.

ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Landmark Tree

Cllr Tucker confirmed safe receipt of the free hazel tree.

Community Policing

In answer to a blanket email to Parish Clerks from PC Darren England, the clerk had emailed dates of the Parish Council meetings as he was intending to attend all 15 meetings within the first 3 months of the year. Nothing further has been heard from PC England.

Play Area Inspection

Inspection of the play areas are scheduled for March. Cllrs Pulman and Summers have the reports from last year.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Casual Vacancy

Information about the casual vacancy will appear in the Luppitt Packet.

Quarterly Check

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

Appointment of Internal Auditor

It was agreed to appoint the same internal auditor as last year.

Banking Arrangements

The clerk has nearly completed the application.

Annual Parish Meeting

The clerk will make enquiries about the format used by Woodbury Parish Council for their Annual Parish Meeting which had been very successful.

Correspondence

- Letters of thanks for S137 donations had been received from Devon Air Ambulance, Devon Freewheelers, TRIP, British Heart Foundation and Hospiscare.
- An email requesting support for the Blackdown Hills Parish Network was noted.
- An email giving details of a user-friendly software solution for playground inspections was noted.
- An email from DALC requesting nominations for the Royal Garden Party was noted.

CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Gully Lane

The resident of Gully Lane Farm had written to Cllr Turner and the letter was discussed in detail. It was agreed that Cllrs Summers and Tucker would arrange a mutually convenient time to call on the resident to discuss the situation.

Domestication of field

Cllr Summers had been advised about concern regarding a field near Pennythorne Cross. Cllr Turner will investigate.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions and the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

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

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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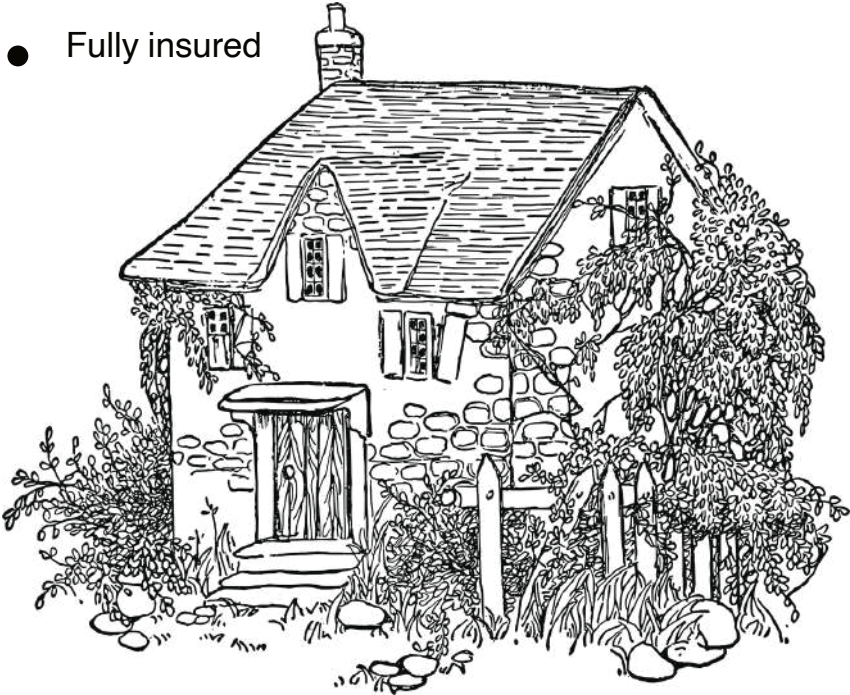
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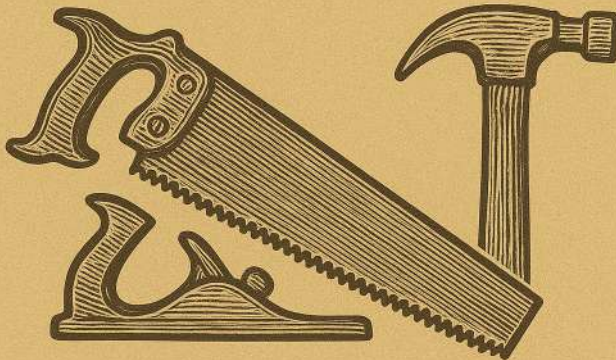
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