

CLAWTON CLARION

December 2022



Welcome to the December edition of the Clawton Clarion

With Christmas fast approaching, we have seen lights going up (albeit mostly due to works being carried out), cars with trees strapped to roof bars sweeping through the village and the village noticeboard adorned with events. Community spirit meets Christmas spirit – we are very blessed.

To make the January edition, contributions need to be with me by midday on Tuesday 13th December 2022. Please send them by email to clawtonclarion@gmail.com or by phone 01409 259972

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas,

Alison

Dates for your diary:

Event	Date	Time	Place
Communion - ARCHDEACON	27 th November	11:00am	St Leonard's Church
Wine and Wisdom	2 nd December	7:00pm	Clawton Parish Hall
Christmas Bingo	3 rd December	6:15pm	Clawton Parish Hall
Communion - Rev Stephen Skinner	7 th December	11:00am	St Leonard's Church
Women on Wednesday	7 th December (members only this month)	7:00pm	Clawton Parish Hall
Evelyn's Walk	12 th December	10:00am	Clawton Parish Hall
Carol Service Rev Stephen Skinner	18 th December	7:00pm	St Leonard's Church
Parish Council Meeting	9 th January	7:30pm	Clawton Parish Hall

Evelyn's Walk

Part of the pleasure of these walks is not knowing who is going to join me. Since all the restrictions ended, people don't have to let me know in advance & it's always a lovely surprise to see who comes on the day. On Monday 14th November, thirteen of us met at Higher Larkworthy Farm with kind permission of the Kirk family. It's very much a working farm & we were all very grateful to them for letting us park there. We followed the footpath that goes through Lower Larkworthy Farm. There were lots of new way markers once we passed the farm buildings which were most helpful in defining the route. It started off as quite a muddy track between the fields, but everybody managed in either their walking boots or wellies. We then crossed a couple of grassy fields & we had to look quite hard in order to determine the route. However, we remembered that there was a post in the hedgerow that had been painted bright yellow. It wasn't immediately obvious, but it helped guide us in the right direction once we went over the brow of the hill. Since we had gone that way last December, Devon County Council have done a lot of work near the river crossing. There was a wooden bridge previously, but it has been replaced with a brand new one. It must have been quite a feat to remove the original one & get the new one put into position!

Having crossed the River Carey, we slithered up the hill the other side & emerged onto the road at Henford. We turned left towards Ashwater & walked downhill initially. It goes without saying that it then went up hill. It was really quite steep & we stopped at strategic points to admire the views with glorious autumnal colours & catch our breath! At the top of the hill, we turned left along a track. This is not a public footpath, but the Kirk family had kindly given us permission to return to our cars that way. We could have continued



along the road towards Ashwater & then followed the Public Right of Way (PROW) on the left. This would have taken us back across the fields to Higher & Lower Larkworthy farms but it would obviously have been a longer walk. Our route involved re-crossing the River Carey via an old stone bridge. The beautiful lichen on the trees is a sure indication of the good air quality. We looked across the orchard towards the two Glamping pods at Higher Larkworthy Farm that blend in so well with the natural environment. Anybody who stays there couldn't wish for a more tranquil place or enjoy more stunning views of unspoiled countryside. Have a look at their web site if you know of anyone wanting to stay locally. I believe everyone enjoyed this walk which took us about 1.5 hours. All in all, it was a lovely route in good weather & convivial company. What a great way to start the week.



The next walk is on Monday 12th December. We will set off from Clawton Village Hall car park at 10am. You are welcome to contact me if you would like more information.

Evelyn Sharman Tel: 01409 259 848

Email: evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com

THE ANNUAL AUTUMNAL GRUMBLE

from TOWN FARM.

"Bah! Humbug!" is my motto,
Old Scroogy had it right.
Family rifts, unwanted gifts,
An annual winter blight.
Rubbish programmes on TV,
The drunken office party,
Cards from folk we never see,
And food, just gross, not hearty.
In all the supermarkets
Aisles filled with Xmas tat,
If you want ham or raspberry jam,
You'll have to search for that!
Then there's the jingly music,
It follows you around,
It's in the shops, it never stops,
A most annoying sound.
Advertising's everywhere,
It's been going since September,
Why not go for a brand new sofa,
Delivery by December?
It seems that we have forgotten
The baby in the ~~round feeder~~ - sorry manger,
The little boy brought hope and joy
And a welcome for the stranger.

lendology.cic



Lending with Heart and Mind

Torridge District Council fund a not-for-profit loan scheme for homeowners and landlords*.

We understand the expense of maintaining your home and we work with you to take the stress out of funding repairs, improvements or adaptations.

We see you as an individual, not a credit score.
Our knowledgeable team of advisers will guide you through the process of applying for a home improvement loan.

For a no-obligation assessment
or more information visit
www.lendology.org.uk or call 01823 461099

Heatherton Park Studios, Bradford on Tone, Taunton, TA4 1EU

*subject to eligibility

From Les at Town Farm

For Les, Christmas is not as festive as he would like. He begins radiotherapy treatment for a throat cancer on his larynx, as he would not survive routine surgery due to his lung C.O.P.D.

In addition, Moyra went into Derriford fit and well recently, for a routine brain fluid drain operation, her heart stopped on the operating table. She was resuscitated but they decided it best not to operate. Three weeks later and having tested positive for covid, Moyra was discharged home. She is very slowly recovering from heart failure.

How quickly things can alter. Spare a thought for them both in the true fashion of Christmas.

Les sends his best wishes to all his Clarion followers.



Planning: There have been no new applications in the last month. We have asked Planning for an update on the apparent attempted development in a woodland site on the right in the Holsworthy direction just after the track to Higher Tinacre.

Ice and Snow: Although the weather so far has been very mild we may pay for it later - A reminder that we have access to a snowplough and a gritter trailer with a supply of grit. If you feel we need the gritter (because the ice is severe and likely to last) give Paul a call on 07794 913757.

Visibility: A reminder that if you're walking the lanes please consider wearing something hi-viz so you can easily be seen – even during the day when it's dull.

Thank You

The Parish Council would like to thank Martin and Ray for kindly cutting the grass in the village at no cost to the Parish. Also, many thanks to our team of Clarion distributors who every month deliver the Clarion to those who don't opt to receive it by email.

Thanks also to those who've turned out to help with litter-picks and the village tidy-up, and those who volunteer to help at village events and in many other ways.

Finally, many thanks to Judi Graham for compiling and editing the Clarion for so long, and to Alison for taking on that role.



Christmas Carols

With mulled wine and mince pies

St. Leonard's Church

Sunday 18th December at 7pm



Thanks go to Steve for the raising and lowering of the flag over St Leonard's Church throughout the year.

Wine & Wisdom

The next Wine and Wisdom is on Friday 2nd December - 7-7.15 for a 7.30 start. Book your table with Paul Grafton by text or call on 07794 913757.

Notices

Services at St Leonard's this month:

27th November 11 am - Communion - Archdeacon
7th December 11 am – Communion - Rev Stephen Skinner
18th December 7pm - Carol Service - Rev Stephen Skinner
followed by Mince Pies and Mulled Wine - All Welcome.

Holsworthy Ales

The brewery is open on 3, 10 and 17 December from 3.30pm until 6.30pm.
The bar will be open along with mince pies and beery gifts available

Women on Wednesday

The next meeting is on Wednesday 7th December 2022
for the members' annual Christmas Meal.
This year the meal is at the Parish Hall, Clawton and member are to meet there at
7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

Royston & Rachel Britton will not
be sending cards this Christmas,
so we would like to wish everyone
a very good Christmas and best
wishes for the New Year.

 **Orbital**
Electrical Services
For All Your Electrical Needs

Mobile : 07977 500770

Owen Ravenscroft
MIET

Email - orbitalelectricalservices@gmail.com



★ DOMESTIC ★ NEW-BUILD
★ INDUSTRIAL ★ COMMERCIAL
★ AGRICULTURAL ★ MEICA

ELECTRICAL INSPECTION AND TESTING

www.orbitalelectricalservices.com



Helping the river Claw one piece of litter at a time!

Plastic has its uses in our lives; in fact, it helps to save lives.

But we have taken this cheap and easy way to produce material beyond its use in life saving medical equipment and other practical benefits. We have replaced non-plastic items that work perfectly well with plastic versions and use plastic to make items we use once.

A throwaway culture means we are seeing plastic leak into our environment. It's not only unsightly, it can also have a devastating effect on animals as they ingest it and die.

But there is also the issue of plastics being a carrier for nasty pathogens which can transfer to wildlife and people.

The Clawton community is determined to help their local environment. They have come together over the past few years, joining Westcountry Rivers Trust under their Preventing Plastic Pollution project to carry out community litter picks in the area. There have been three litter picks since February 2021, with 16 volunteers.

Clawton may not seem to have much litter on the surface, but 24kg of plastic litter and 38.5kg in total has been collected. This means 62% of all litter found has been plastic.

It has been a fantastic effort by all involved. We hope the community will continue to pick up litter and prevent it from entering our freshwater habitats. Reducing our reliance on plastic is a simple step we can all take to improve the health of our natural environment.

Many thanks,

Lydia



Lydia Ashworth

Evidence and Engagement
Officer

Westcountry Rivers Trust
01579 372140

wrt.org.uk



Holsworthy Walk and Talk

It was a good job that we had enjoyed the autumn sunshine as it has now yielded to the Monsoon season. During the winter we do have the advantage of having a selection of forestry walks with hard tracks keeping our feet relatively clean and dry. The reservoirs are still very much in need of the rain. Our group photo below is of a Level 3 walk during September taken at a very depleted Roadford Lake. The second photo is of an even more depleted Upper Tamar Lake, also taken in September.



Cameras were at the ready on our Level 2 walk at Dunsland Park in November. We came across a Red Horse Chestnut tree which has smaller leaves with a more beechnut-type fruit than the familiar Horse Chestnut tree and its conkers, but are poisonous to humans and animals. The tree is a hybrid mix between a horse-chestnut and a red buckeye, originally being introduced from Europe to enhance ornamental gardens because of the deep pink flowers.

Celebrity status was awarded to Mike Jackson, our Treasurer, last month when he was interviewed by Radio Devon's Pippa Quelch as part of their Children in Need broadcasts with an emphasis on mental health. Mike did an excellent job promoting our Group and some of the benefits of walking with a group in general.

We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year. As the celebrations this year fall on a Sunday our Friday walks will continue uninterrupted. Our Monday Walk in the Park will miss two consecutive weeks due to being Bank Holidays.

If you feel the need to walk off some of the festive fare or make a New Year's resolution to get a bit fitter, get out and about and meet new people we walk on Mondays and Fridays. All walks start at 10.30 am and are **FREE**. Membership forms are available from our Volunteer Walk Leader prior to the start of the walk.

Our website has lots of up to date information, together with our current programme of walks, details below.

Contacts:

holsworthywalkandtalk@gmail.com

<http://holsworthywalkandtalk.co.uk>

Gillian Aston 07854677784
Mike Jackson 01409 261196
Paul Davies 01409 253250



Clawton Parish Hall by Maralyn Bailey

December 2022

Compiling this report on behalf of the hall falls just after Remembrance Sunday, which enjoyed sparkling sunshine and unheard of temperatures. For us, the hall tends to be quieter during December. For Saturday 3rd, we have our Christmas bingo. Doors open at 6.15, we guarantee an evening of fun, with a great array of prizes. Refreshments will be served during the evening. We thank Nigel & Edwina for the kind donation of the wonderful Christmas tree, which has sparkled in the hall during the month.

As chairman of the committee, I wish to send my thanks to all the committee members and the "outer circles" who support the events. I believe we have built and sustained a great community spirit since Covid took its toll on us all. The committee & myself wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a healthy 2023.

Book via phone 271315, 07368 621009 or by email to:
maralynjohn@hotmail.com

Wine and Wisdom

Friday 2nd December
starting 7.30pm

Clawton Parish Hall
Quizmaster: Revd Stephen Skinner

Book your team's table now –
call Paul on 01409 271456

£8 per person (proceeds to St Leonard's church)

Mum's The Word by Ann Goodspeed

It's funny how small things can trigger memories in our brains.

A few mornings ago, just as it was getting light, I opened my eyes to see what looked like the silhouette of the limb of a tree. There were no leaves on it. It was still, upright and really close to my face and in my half-awake brain, I tried to work out how it had got there.

As I started waking up more, it became clear that it was in fact my right arm! Somehow, it had escaped the warmth and landed upright against the cabinet, as if to play tricks with my mind.

It took me back to many years ago when I woke up and couldn't find my right arm. It wasn't next to me and I couldn't feel it at all. Panic started to set in, and all sorts of thoughts ran through my dramatic imagination as to what had gone on in the night that I still managed to sleep through.

Eventually, I looked up and recognised my right hand above my head and I was grateful that it was still attached to my arm. It did, however, need help from my left hand to find its way back, which it did with a loud thump onto the duvet.

It took some time to recover any signs of normality - that's the arm I mean. I will take much longer 🤦

GARETH POLLARD ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES

Friendly, Reliable, Affordable

Over 25 years experience

Free initial meeting

- Accounts
- Limited Companies
- Tax
- Bookkeeping
- VAT
- Payroll / CIS

mail@garethpollardaccountancyservices.com

T: 01409 254817 M: 07811 164428

The Old Orchard | Holsworthy | Devon | EX22 6LT