

# CLAWTON CLARION



**March 2024**

Whilst putting this edition together, I have been given some sad news. Les Johnson, Clawton Clarion's resident poet, passed away yesterday (Friday 23rd February). He, and his poetry, will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and condolences go to Moyra and the family.

It is particularly quiet here, (when the rain isn't lashing at the windows and doing its best to shatter the roof tiles) as the 'Oldies' in our household, have headed overseas to boost their vitamin D. Hence, there will be no 'Mum's The Word' for the next couple of issues.

I have recently been informed that a collection of photographs of Clawton exists, and I have permission to publish some of these here in The Clarion. However, the photographs are currently on slides. If anyone has the know how or appropriate tool to transfer these images, please get in touch.

If you would like to see your items published in the next edition, please send them in by midday on 20th to [clawtonclarion@gmail.com](mailto:clawtonclarion@gmail.com). Views expressed by our contributors are their own, and not those of the Parish Council.

*Alison*

Event	Time	Date	Place
Women on Wednesday	7:30pm	Wednesday 6th March	Clawton Parish Hall
Coffee Morning	10:30—12:00	Friday 8th March	Clawton Parish Hall
Railway Club	7:00pm	Friday 8th March	Clawton Parish Hall
Holy Communion with Rev'd Dr Paul Fitzpatrick	11:00am	Sunday 10th March	St Leonard's Church
Parish Council Meeting	7:30pm	Monday 11th March	Clawton Village Hall
Whist	7:30pm	Wednesday 13th March	Clawton Parish Hall
Easter Bingo	6:45pm	Saturday 23rd March	Clawton Parish Hall
United Service with Lorna Bowden	11:00am	Sunday 24th March	St Leonard's Church

# COMMUNITY NEWS

A massive thank you to all who attended the CPR & defibrillator training at Clawton Parish Hall on 15th January.

Training was kindly provided by Jay's Aim and through the event we managed to raise £104.15 which will be passed to Clawton Parish Hall towards upkeep of the defibrillator.

## Defibrillator Locations

We are lucky to have 2 defibrillators in Clawton, one on the wall outside the main entrance at Clawton Parish Hall and also one located just outside the main gates at Clawton School.

I believe the one at the hall does not require a code to access, but I am unsure with regards to the one at the school.

I will aim to source more information and update via the Clarion. I will also list our next nearest defibrillator locations as we have many people residents who live just outside the village and may be nearer to a neighbouring defibrillator.

## Emergency Contact Numbers

During the defibrillator training, some questions were raised. One question in particular was that being a rural community, it's not always possible for those that live further away or on their own, to get to the defibrillator in adequate time. It was suggested to have a section in the Clawton Clarion for Emergency Contact numbers of anyone that lives close to the defibrillators for anyone that has an emergency and needs help from someone nearby.

We all know, being so rural, that at times, it can be a long wait for emergency services to reach us, The idea arose of a list of willing contacts of people who live close to a defibrillator, or anybody local who is able to offer help in an emergency, could be published.

If anyone has any suggestions, or would like to volunteer to be an emergency contact, please feel free to email me on [anitifisher217@gmail.com](mailto:anitifisher217@gmail.com).

Regards, Anita Fisher



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## ‘Women on Wednesday’

The next meeting is on Wednesday 6th March 2024

At 7.30 p.m. In Clawton Village Hall.

This is the Annual General Meeting and Planning Meeting for Members to decide on speakers, activities and visits for the next year’s programme.

# CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS

## Church Flag



We've been trying to keep a flag flying on the church tower – the Union Jack alternating with St. George's Flag, depending on the time of year.

But it's not been straightforward. High winds at times over the last couple of years have managed to break the flag rope twice – it cost us £700 the first time and £500 the second to have the steeplejacks come and attach a new rope. The challenge is that the enormously heavy flagpole needs to be gently lowered overhanging the tower parapet, then moved back until the pulley at the top is within reach. Then the new rope is inserted and the procedure reversed.

It has apparently been done by volunteers in the past but the consequences of an accident such as the pole toppling onto the church roof or someone being crushed seems to call for outsourcing to experts – in spite of the expense.

The same winds have destroyed at least 4 flags over the last 2 years. Ideally we'd lower it when windy weather is forecast and Steve Bailey kindly tries to do so when especially strong winds are forecast but, being where we are, windy weather is so frequent that it's not really practical to take it down every time winds are forecast, then put it up afterwards. Some flags have not been particularly expensive but ones made specifically to fly from church towers cost £200-£250 each. Hopefully they will last longer than the cheaper ones we've been using.

BUT.... add up the above sums and this is equivalent to a year's collections at church services. And compared with essentials such as electricity, insurance, buildings maintenance and various repairs the flag is probably a lower priority. On the other hand, many people like to see the flag fluttering above the tower.

So we're launching an appeal – for a fund to be set aside specifically for the purchase of flags and maintenance of the flagpole. If you like to see a flag flying over the village we would be very grateful if you would consider making either a one-off or an annual donation. You can do this by using this QR code to go to our Parish Giving webpage, which also asks if you would be prepared to Gift Aid your donation (so we can reclaim 20% tax) or (if you've kindly chosen an annual donation) whether you would like to increase it annually by the rate of inflation.

As Treasurer, I get a confidential notification of all donations. Unfortunately the Parish Giving system doesn't yet allow you to nominate the fund to which your donation should be allocated, so please could you let me know separately by email or a note if you wish your donation to be used only for the flags and flagpole maintenance. If you'd rather donate by cheque (to St. Leonard's Clawton) or cash we can claim gift aid if you put it in one of the yellow envelopes in the church and place it in the donation box (just write 'Flag Fund' on the envelope). Many thanks, Paul Grafton, Treasurer.

### Clawton Village Website

[https://  
www.clawton.org.uk/](https://www.clawton.org.uk/)

*This hasn't been updated for a few months – my apologies but it threw a wobbly and I couldn't figure out how to fix it*

*Anyway, it's back up and should be up to date. Please could you let me know if there's anything that needs changing. Many thanks. Paul*

# CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS

## Church Contacts

**Rector:** Revd. Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick 01409 254 667 [vicar-rubycountry@outlook.com](mailto:vicar-rubycountry@outlook.com)

**Baptism, Wedding or Funerals:** [rubycountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:rubycountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com)

**Joint Churchwardens:** Irene Ellis – 01409 254572, Lorna Bowden – 01409 271384

**Secretary/Treasurer** - Paul Grafton - 01409 271456 [paul@devonholidays.org](mailto:paul@devonholidays.org)

## Wine & Wisdom

A record turnout (for us at least!) on Friday 23rd. 17 tables filled the hall to capacity and tested their experience, knowledge and brainpower, all to raise funds for St.Leonard's church. Very many thanks to all who made it happen and to everyone who came to support us.

You might like to test your skill on two of the questions - answers on page 6

What replaces the question mark in this sequence 1,10,3,8,5,6,7,4,9,?

Which of these is the odd one out? H&S, C&Y, T&E, P&A

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

## SUNDAY SERVICES

11am

10TH MARCH-MOTHERING  
SUNDAY

WITH REVEREND DR PAUL  
FITZPATRICK

Posies available  
for mums

22TH MARCH-UNITED SERVICE  
WITH LORNA BOWDEN

## EASTER EGG HUNT AT TETCOTT CHURCH

SATURDAY 30TH MARCH

10AM TILL 12PM

ALL WELCOME

# HOLSWORTHY WALK

## AND TALK

BY

GILLIAN ASTON



It is with deep sadness that we report the loss of Diane Williams, one of our long-serving members of the Walking Group. Diane, together with her partner Gordon Bennett, joined the Group about 20 years ago and has been very supportive from the start. When we moved our Walk in the Park venue to the Sports Pavilion she took over the role of Tea Lady, ensuring that everyone had their preferred beverage exactly the way they liked it as soon as they arrived back following their walk. Her quiet, unassuming and caring presence will be sorely missed by us all. Our condolences go to Gordon and to Diane's family.

Last month we visited Buckland Filleigh which is always a joy even though, unsurprisingly, it was quite muddy in places. Several new members joined us and it is always a pleasure to introduce them to such a lovely walk and the surprise of Buckland House overlooking the parkland and lake. Usually around this time of year there are several baby lambs to keep us entertained but they were evidently still in their warm barn waiting for spring to arrive.

When we did the recce prior to the Lower Tamar walk there were lots of excited birdwatchers with enormous cameras all around. They were looking for a Willow Tit, as a few had been spotted in the area. They are apparently found across temperate North Europe, including the UK, but are actually quite rare and hence all the excitement. We didn't see any but there is a picture attached so you will know what it is if you happen to spot one!!

As well as promoting our physical and psychological health our walks open up new areas to explore and discover many places of local interest together with flora and fauna.

If you would like to join us we walk on Mondays and Fridays. All walks start at 10.30 am and are **FREE**. Membership forms are available from our Volunteer Walk Leaders 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](mailto:holsworthywalkandtalk@gmail.com)

<https://holsworthywalkandtalk.co.uk>

Gillian Aston 07584677784



Spring is coming! The birds are singing, thinking of pairing up, and looking for a suitable place to set up home.

We have had a busy month. The Valentine/Friendship meal proved very popular; together with the helpers, we catered for just short of 70 people. Thank you to everyone who attended and a big thanks to my fellow committee members who helped in any way.

Kerry has been very active updating the interior of the hall, we are looking very smart now. More plans are afoot to update the ladies' toilet area.

We thank Anne & Roger for their organisation of the whist evenings, which have amassed £200 over the past few months. This contributes to the electricity usage and any excess is for hall improvements. An anonymous Clawton resident has sent another donation for the hall's upkeep. Our continuing thanks to you.

The monthly Coffee mornings have donated £430 to the Devon Air Ambulance. Volunteers supply the refreshments, and those participating leave a voluntary donation for the morning. Once again thanks to Anne for dealing with the collection. Remember, all are welcome to these Friday mornings, which is always advertised in the Clarion.

We are holding an Easter bingo evening - lots of chocolate!!

Doors will open at 6.45pm on Saturday 23rd March. There will be refreshments, with a small entry fee. The usual format with a cash flyer.

A forward announcement "Crazy Mama" will be playing in the hall in June. Our local talent with a great following. Details next month. *Maralyn*

## VACANCY

The Parish Council is looking for a Clerk as Sally Whitehead (having completed more than 6 years of sterling service) has given notice that for personal reasons she wishes to resign earlier than originally envisaged.

The job is basically administering the Parish Council, keeping the (fairly simple) accounts, doing their own PAYE and acting as a communication point between the Parish Council and Torridge District Council and Devon County Council, and our local councillors. It is a home-based role involving 20 hours per month paid at the equivalent Civil Service hourly rate. There are 6 Parish Council meetings a year for which the Clerk produces an agenda, attends the meeting and then produces the minutes. A laptop is provided.

The Job Description and Contract can be found on the village website (<http://www.clawton.org.uk/>) under the Parish Council tab. If you have any questions about the role or would like to apply please contact Sally by email ([clawtonpcclerk@outlook.com](mailto:clawtonpcclerk@outlook.com)) or phone (07867 698417).

## EVELYN'S WALK

I didn't organise any walks in December or January so the walk on Monday 12th February was the first walk in 2024.

Seven of us met at Dunsdon Nature Reserve in Pancrasweek & it wasn't raining!!! In fact the sun shone which definitely lifted everyone's spirits. We walked back to the lane from the car park & turned right.



We could admire St. Pancras Church in the distance & enjoy far-reaching views towards Bodmin. At the point where the lane went round a left hand bend, we turned right & then joined the footpath on the right. This is a lovely level walk alongside the Bude Aqueduct, the feeder arm of the Bude Canal. We were effectively walking inland towards Lower Tamar Lake but only walked as far as Puckland Farm. It was a bit sticky under foot but not really muddy which is amazing given how much rain we have had in recent weeks. We looked for spring flowers & spotted a Primrose. We were surprised that we didn't see more especially as it has been so mild. We enjoyed the tranquility along the way. We didn't meet a soul. Apparently, this area is known for Willow Tits & Grasshopper Warblers. We didn't notice any but to be fair, they probably heard our chatter & hid. Once we reached the lane at Puckland Farm, we turned right. It was hard to believe that this is a public road given the lack of tarmac. It was more akin to a track providing access to the farm. When we reached the T-junction, we turned right & the road surface improved. We continued walking along the lane past Broomhill & by turning right at Dunsdon Cross, we returned to the entrance to the car park. We saw patches of Snowdrops & a Camellia in bloom. The sun continued to shine all the way back. This made a very pleasant circular route of approx. 3.25 miles & a lovely start to the week.

The next walk is planned for Monday 11th March. We'll be setting off from the car park by the Village Hall in Bridgerule at 10am. Everyone is most welcome to join me. If you would like more information, my contact details are:

Evelyn Sharman

Tel:01409259848

evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com

## NEWS FROM THE BREWERY

The brewery shop and bar will be open every Saturday afternoon 3.30pm to 6.30pm from 20 April 2024 until the end of October except for the following:

**Saturday 27th April 2024**

Fish and chip fayre from [The Whiddon Wagon](#)

**Saturday 25th May 2024**

Wood fired sourdough pizza from [Taste of the Wild Pizza](#)  
Live music from Crazy Mama

**Saturday 29th June 2024**

Worldwide street food from [Danny and Eva's food van](#)

**Saturday 27th July 2024**

Wood fired sourdough pizza from [Taste of the Wild Pizza](#)

**Saturday 31st August 2024**

Village fundraiser BBQ

**Saturday 28th September 2024**

Fish and chip fayre from [The Whiddon Wagon](#)

**Saturday 26th October 2024**

Worldwide street food from [Danny and Eva's food van](#)

# POETRY BY LES

## The Magic of Spring

I've not spied a fairy for ages,  
It's months since I spotted a sprite.  
I remember 'twas back in the autumn  
When evenings were mellow and bright.  
So, though I'm watching and hoping,  
It seems they're still snugly tucked up,  
Waiting for snowdrop and crocus  
And daisy and bright buttercup  
To push through the earth and start waving  
At newly born sunbeams that bring  
Birdsong and blossom filled branches  
All marking the magic of spring.



As a tribute to Les for his contribution over the years, please enjoy two poems from his vast collection.

Thank you Les,  
we will miss you.

## TOWN FARM GARDEN.....

The garden is a special place  
No matter how big or small,  
With shady trees and pretty flowers  
And many a sweet-sounding birdie call.  
A setting where one can unwind.  
To close a working day  
There is no better way.  
However, there's a great big snag,  
For gardens require work,  
Not just a little weeding,  
But those jobs you cannot shirk.  
Like mowing that big stretch of lawn,  
Plus trimming round the edge,  
Then pruning overgrown fruit trees,  
And cutting the front hedge.  
That big clump of chrysanthemum  
Requires a thinning out,  
And those ragworts need pulling up  
Before they start to sprout.  
All this is hard work - but when done,  
Gives much self - satisfaction,  
The garden will look neat and loved  
So well worth all that action.



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