

# CLAWTON CLARION



April 2024

Spring is here. We are so blessed in Clawton, to see examples popping (or springing—groan) up as gardens come to life and fields flourish with livestock. The wildlife camera is going out this weekend, so brace yourselves for more amateur pictures of magpies, moles and my wellies in future editions!

Sadly, I was informed of the unhappy news that we lost four of our eldest residents in the past month: Mr David William-Brock 85, the youngest of 13, who worked for the Council, Mr Les Johnson 83 - we will miss all the poems that he has written over the years, and Desmond & Jean Moore who celebrated 70 years of marriage together and loved their gardening. Clawton Skittles will miss them greatly, as Desmond and Les both played for Clawton Men's Team and Jean was Captain and Chairperson for well over 50 years for Clawton Ladies' Team. Our thoughts and prayers go to all the families at this sad time and also to those of former resident Mrs June Furse, nee Axford.

If you would like to see your items published in the next edition, please send them in by midday on 20th. Views expressed by our contributors are their own, and not those of the Parish Council.

Alison

Event	Time	Date	Place
Women on Wednesday	5:15pm	Wednesday 3rd April	Clawton Parish Hall Car Park
Tetcott History Night	6:30 for 7pm	Saturday 6th April	Arscott Hall
Whist	7:30pm	Wednesday 10th April	Clawton Parish Hall
Coffee Morning	10:30 —12:00	Friday 12th April	Clawton Parish Hall
Railway Club	7:00pm	Friday 12th April	Clawton Parish Hall
Holy Communion with Rev'd Dr Paul Fitzpatrick	11:00am	Sunday 14th April	St Leonard's Church
Big Breakfast	9:00am	Saturday 19th April	Clawton Parish Hall
United Service with Lorna Bowden	11:00am	Sunday 28th April	St Leonard's Church

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Composer Comes Home

Brass Band composer and arranger Kevin Ackford has returned to where it all started for him 56 years ago.

Kevin's musical career began at the age of 6 sat next to his late father Michael playing for the Holsworthy Town Band.

Over the years Kevin has won countless competitions as both a soloist and as a member of various championship section bands. While with the Holsworthy Town Band at the age of 9 Kevin won the children's class of BBC radio's Search For A Star competition and at the age of 12 became the youngest person in the UK to hold a principal position in a championship section band. Kevin's composing and arranging career began in the 1980's with his beautiful Euphonium solo "Cornish Sunset."

After sending the score to world renowned composer Goff Richards, Goff encouraged Kevin to have it published, and to date Kevin has around 100 published works including a theme tune for BBC radio's Sounds of Brass.

Around Christmas, Holsworthy Band were like so many brass bands experiencing hard times and in January 2024 their Musical Director parted ways with the band to take up another position.

One member of the band still had contact details for Kevin and plucked up the courage to send out a cry for help. Kevin didn't hesitate and called a rehearsal the very next evening and agreed to take the band, and to try to rebuild it. Kevin said, "This is the band that gave me my start in music, and I will do everything that I can to help rebuild it."

The band rehearses on a Thursday evening from 7:30. Anyone who is interested in coming along to a rehearsal will be welcomed regardless of age or experience.

**"Let's bring this band back to life."**

For more details, please contact  
Sue Lyle on: [suelyle65@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:suelyle65@hotmail.co.uk)

### Tetcott History/Video Night

By Mike Greenaway at The Arscott Hall

Fun, Facts and Food on April 6th. Doors open at 6:30

Please book with Marg on 07775 633766

### 'Women on Wednesday'

The next meeting is

On Wednesday 3rd April 2024

Members to meet at 5.15 p.m.

in the hall car park

for the Spring Outing to Barnstaple

### Congratulations

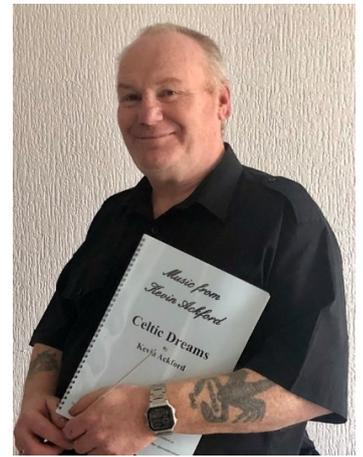
to Lottie and Elliot Gerrard

of Commons Gate

on the birth of their baby boy

Theodore George Gerrard

born on 11th March 2024



# HOLSWORTHY WALK

## AND TALK

BY

GILLIAN ASTON



Last month we visited Germansweek which we haven't done for a while. Parking in a large lay-by at the northern tip of Roadford Lake we headed off on a footpath through fields which were incredibly dry with the lush grass being enjoyed by a few sheep. Our path then took us along woodland tracks and over the River Wolf which is the main feeder river for Roadford Lake. The river had evidently had a very busy winter as Roadford Lake was looking very full as can be seen from our photo. All of the stiles along the route had been converted to pedestrian gates.

Having had a cardio workout walking up a fairly steep track we arrived in the village of Germansweek. We had been given permission to visit the Church of St German, a Grade 2\* Listed 13<sup>th</sup> century Church. It is a very well kept, spacious church with a peal of five bells and an impressive pipe organ on the left hand side of the Church. The organ has recently been gifted to the Church by a gentleman with family connections to the Parish. The Churchyard was an oasis of tranquillity with several ornate headstones and one Commonwealth War Graves Commission marked grave. We had been discussing the name of Germansweek so were interested to find a booklet in the Church giving a history of the name. Apparently, the village of Germansweek originally takes its name from St Germanus, a 5<sup>th</sup> century AD Bishop to whom the Parish Church is dedicated. The old English word 'wic' originates from a Latin word meaning hamlet or farm and is particularly common in districts where cattle farming has played an important role from ancient times.

As often happens on our walks we are introduced to snippets of local history and interest as well as having the opportunity to admire beautiful scenery and varied wildlife and benefit from the fresh air and exercise.

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.

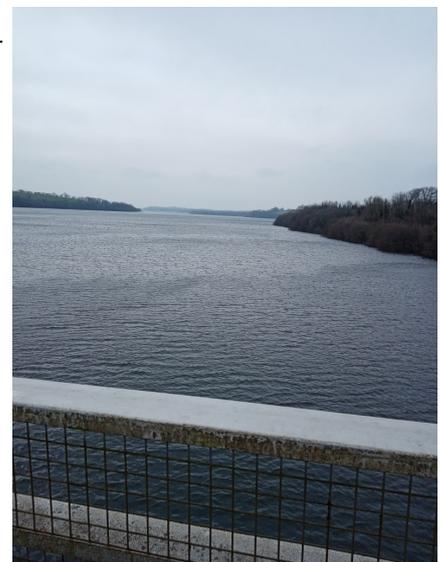
Our website has lots of up to date information, together with our current programme of walks, details below.

Contacts:

[holsworthywalkandtalk@gmail.com](mailto:holsworthywalkandtalk@gmail.com)

<https://holsworthywalkandtalk.co.uk>

Gillian Aston 07584677784



# CLAWTON PARISH HALL BY MARALYN BAILEY

Spring is certainly in the air; the birdsong at the hall has been magical, everyone proclaiming their territory.

Our decorator Kerry has all but completed the new look interior; just the toilet areas to go, after they receive their “makeover” which is due in the next few months.

We are into a quieter time now, as the skittle season is over.

Planning is in operation to have a monthly craft/plant Sunday event in the hall. This would include food items, craft & bric a brac stalls along with hopefully, local plant sellers. Are there any green fingered folk who could have a stall with seedlings or more mature plants for the garden?? If so, do get in touch with us, and book a table or space.

The hall will be hosting the funeral afternoon teas for three of our residents, as the community say their goodbyes to Jean & Des Moore and Les (our Clawton poetry writer).

Book & puzzle swap is still available, on Monday afternoons and on brewery get together Saturdays (4pm to 6.30pm).

The brewery itself reopens at the end of the month, see Dave’s adverts for details of afternoons and evenings.



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# CHURCH NOTICES

## Services at St Leonards:

Sunday 14th April - Holy Communion 11 am

with Rev'd Dr Paul Fitz Patrick.

Sunday 28th April United Service 11 am with Lorna Bowden.

## 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)



# *Big Breakfast*

## Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April

### 9.00am, Clawton Village Hall

£8 per Adult,

£4 per Child, Family £20

*Proceeds to St Leonard's church.*



## Parish Council Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> March by Paul Grafton

**Leworthy road:** Ron Morley from Leworthy described the appalling state of the lower part of the road and the consequences for those living there despite some years of requests and letters to highways for repairs. The Clerk will send a letter of support from the Parish Council to Devon CC.

**Meeting with Devon County Council (DCC):** Paul Grafton joined a meeting with the Chief Executive Donna Manson and the Leader Cllr John Hart organised by James Morrish (our DCC Councillor), together with Philip Hackett (one of our TDC Councillors) and other representatives from Holsworthy and surrounding Parishes. The key issue regarding potholes (and other facilities provided by the County Council) is that legally required social services for children and adults take up the vast majority of the council budget. Donna Manson described a plan to find efficiencies which should reduce the share of the budget taken by Social Services. Paul raised the issue of the Road Wardens scheme, which allows parishes to send people for training in how to carry out various road maintenance tasks safely and professionally themselves. An offer was made that more support might be possible if parishes were to join together as a group so they could share the necessary equipment etc. At the end of the meeting Chief Executive and Leader were taken to see local agricultural businesses Harpers and Mole Valley and then to see the state of some roads including the Chasty road and Leworthy.

**Devolution:** Cllr Morrish briefed the Parish Council on the upcoming devolution which will bring more power and decisions to County Hall instead of Whitehall.

**Donated tree:** A tree donated by the Landmark Trust is being nurtured by Cllr Stacey until needed.

**Speed warning signs:** Discussions are ongoing regarding the purchase and installation of speed warning signs on the main road at each end of the village.

### Planning:

1/1042/2023/FUL Higher Blagdon, Clawton. Application passed

1/1270/2023/FUL Land at Higher Blagdon, Clawton. Application declined

1/0116/2024/FUL The old Granary Pyworthy (Leworthy). After much discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council had no objection but would like the following points noted.

There appear to be more hedges than noted on application

The lane is not easily passable due the poor state of the road.

They assume a Section 106 Order will apply so the property stays a local needs residence

They assume that a contamination survey will be carried out

**Defibrillator:** An offer of a third defibrillator has been accepted and when delivered will be installed next to the Brewery by kind permission of David Moore. This will mean we have three - one at the school, one at the Hall and one at the Brewery.

**Car Park:** It was agreed that two dead trees with large branches hanging over the village car park will be cut down as soon as possible to prevent potential damage to cars and injury to persons. A sign to inform car park users that they do so at their own risk will be placed prominently in the area.

**Clerk to the Parish Council:** Two applications have been received and a selection process will begin once 4 weeks have elapsed from the vacancy notice.

**Clawford Lakes:** A planning application will shortly be submitted for an extra area of holiday lodges and Councillors were invited to a presentation and viewing of the present and proposed sites.

## EVELYN'S WALK



On Monday 11th March, eight of us met in the car park next to Bridgerule Village Hall. We had a discussion about what would be the most appropriate footwear given that there are no footpaths in Bridgerule and whether to wear a coat. Unbelievably, it wasn't raining

and it was very mild. Before setting off, we discussed how busy it was in the Village Hall. There was obviously a class taking place and the Post Office was open. We noticed the new building which wasn't evident twelve months ago and is intended to be a Community Shop. As we set off towards the bridge over the River Tamar, there was mention of the shops that used to exist in the village. We were fortunate to be in the presence of people who remembered the original Post Office, Sweet and Antiques shops and they pointed out where they used to be. We walked up the hill passing the School and Glebe House Cottages. Somebody remarked that the incumbent of St. Bridget's Church would have lived there when it was the Rectory. The chances are that Father Kingdon would have walked along the BOAT (By-way Open to All Traffic) in order to get to the Church. An alternative view was that he would have travelled with a pony and trap. In this case, he probably would have stayed on the lanes. It might have been further but less steep than the "Roly Poly". We admired the Church tower in the distance and enjoyed watching the young lambs playing in the sunshine as we negotiated the only PROW in Bridgerule. We made a slight detour to visit the Church. The door was locked but we admired what we believe to be a stone stoup in the porch. We also discovered Father Kingdon's resting place and marvelled at the thought that he was still serving the Parish at the age of ninety eight! We then walked down the hill to-

towards the village but took a detour through The Bridge Mill with very kind permission of Alan and Rosie Beat. I have had a look at the web site and The Bridge Mill is open to the public on Sundays 26th May and 2nd June. It's well worth a visit especially when the water mill is operating. Proceeds go to charity. We ventured back towards the car park by way of the Hedgehog Crossing which made everyone smile. What a lovely way to start the week.

The next walk will be on Monday 8th April. We will be setting off from Thornbury Holiday Park at 10am. Everyone is welcome to come. Please contact me if you would like any more information.

Tel: 01409 259 848

Email: [evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com](mailto:evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com)



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