

## CLAWTON CLARION March 2022



Welcome to the March 2022 edition of the Clawton Clarion.

As I write this, we are in the midst of storm Eunice and I hope all Clawton residents are staying safe and without too much damage.

At last the evenings are lengthening and shortly the clocks will be moved forward to herald the start of Spring and hopefully a more normal way of life after the strangeness of the past two years. The importance of community has been emphasised for us all over this time and we thank all those in Clawton who have supported neighbours and residents during the height of the pandemic.

Contributions for the next edition must be received by midday on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March** to [graham.jw@btinternet.com](mailto:graham.jw@btinternet.com) or call me, Judi Graham: 01409 271265

If you would like to receive the Clarion electronically, send me your e mail address

### **Dates for your Diary**

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	Women on Wednesday	7.30pm	Annual General Meeting and planning meeting – members only
<b>5<sup>th</sup> March and each Saturday</b>	Brewery at the Hall	3.30-6.30pm	Clawton Parish Hall
<b>12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Home from Home Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	Clawton Parish Hall
<b>13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Methodist Communion	11.00	St Leonard's Church
<b>14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Evelyn's walk	10.00	Contact Evelyn for details 01409 259 848
<b>19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Clawton Litter Pick	2.00pm	Meet at Clawton Parish Hall – see further details
<b>27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Holy Communion	11.00am	St Leonard's Church with Rev Stephen Skinner

### **Request for Domestic Help**

Mrs Jean Moore of Barn Park, Clawton is looking for a domestic cleaner for a few hours a week. For further information please contact her on 01409 254404

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## St Leonard's Church

### Services for March:

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am - Methodist Communion with Simon Lee

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am – Holy Communion with Rev Stephen Skinner

For any church related concerns or queries please contact: Rev Stephen Skinner (Priest in charge)

Tel: 07554 142264 email- [sjmskinners@btinternet.com](mailto:sjmskinners@btinternet.com) Irene Ellis (Church warden) Tel: 01409 271371

**Wine and Wisdom:** A number of stalwarts braved the latest challenge (this time Storm Eunice rather than Covid-19) to join us in attempting to answer questions kindly set by Ian and Helen Parker. Many thanks to Ian and Helen, to Henry for loan of the PA system and to all who worked to set up, man the bar, cater and clear up, and to all who braved the elements to be there.

### Women on Wednesday

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 at 7.30 p.m** in Clawton Parish 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. Members only please

### Clawton Parish Council News - from Paul Grafton

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm** in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend. Please send any matters for the attention to the Parish Council to the parish clerk, Sally Whitehead via [clawtonpcclerk@outlook.com](mailto:clawtonpcclerk@outlook.com) Minutes and Agenda are available on our village web site: [www.clawton.org.uk](http://www.clawton.org.uk)

**Parish Survey:** We last carried out a survey of residents' views ten years ago. Many of the issues raised then have been addressed. A new – and much shorter – survey is attached to this edition of the Clarion. We would be very grateful if each household would take 5 minutes to complete it.



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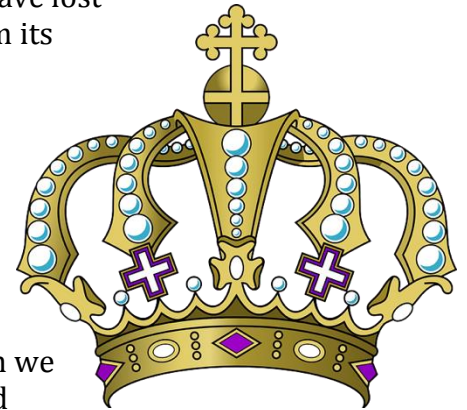
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## Clawton Parish Hall Report – from Maralyn Bailey

As I am compiling this report for the Clarion, I am trying to see through sea salt covered windows, even the side window has become cloudy! Just shows what a momentous storm we have just encountered. Do hope everyone did not have too much damage. We have lost greenhouse panes and polytunnel covering, the frame was ripped from its “moorings”, and the frame is all bent!!

Questions are being asked about the “Queen’s Platinum Jubilee” celebrations - plans are afoot for a village tea on the Sunday, along with the Parish Council & Church, we at the hall will be organising the afternoon, we would welcome any helpers in this task as we are all small in number. Our Saturday brewery afternoons (3.30 to 7ish) have been a great success, last week we enjoyed fish and chips delivered by our own “uber” driver. When the rugby was being shown we provided sausages in rolls at a small cost. A barrel of beer is purchased each week along with cans of cider, wine and soft drinks, we charge the same as the brewery. When Dave opens the brewery again we will stop these afternoons. We aim to appeal to the residents of Clawton and friends.



We have short mat bowls on Monday afternoon, in the evening there is a Zumba group who meet for exercise!! Tuesday & Thursday are for skittles during their season. The first Wednesday evening each month hosts the WOW group. Women on Wednesday (a relaxed time to meet and have and chat with friends), with speakers and more practical demos too. Second Friday of the month the Railway club meet in the evening. Home from Home coffee mornings are also held in the hall on the second Friday mornings each month. We aim to have a plant sale, alongside local produce and coffee/bacon bap Saturday morning in April or May.

Our hall provides a meeting point for all.

## Holsworthy Walk and Talk from Gill Aston

The Dunsland snowdrops were not feeling very prolific this year but they are a lovely reminder that spring may not be too far away. The rhododendrons, however, were showing promise of providing a good show in a few weeks' time. We are looking forward to our Meldon Reservoir Bluebell Walk on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The bluebells form a carpet through the woodland and, if the sun is shining, give off a wonderful aroma.

We often refer to new research into the benefits of walking in regard to physical and psychological health. As I am writing this article the news headline is that exercise is especially beneficial to the over 70s, particularly in relation to preventing and managing heart disease. However, the knowledge of the benefits of walking is not new. Jean-Jacque Rousseau, the 18<sup>th</sup> century Genevan philosopher was a very keen walker. He was very much aware of how walking helped him to shape his thoughts and has been quoted as saying ‘my mind only works with my legs’!

The new programme is available on our website. If technology is not your thing then please see our phone numbers below and we can send you a copy by ‘snail mail’.

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.

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

<http://holsworthywalkandtalk.co.uk>

Gillian Aston 01409 254642

Mike Jackson 01409 261196

Paul Davies 01409 2532





## Monthly Walks from Evelyn Sharman

By hook or by crook, everyone managed to find their way to Dunsdon Nature Reserve on Monday 14th February. It isn't the easiest place to find & there are various ways of getting there. I have been known to do a few extra miles in my attempts to locate it previously!!

If you don't already know, it's situated in the Parish of Pancrasweek & has quite a big car park. Rather than venture through the actual Nature Reserve which has a reputation for being wet, we walked back to the entrance of the car park & turned right along the lane. This took us past the beautifully renovated Chapel at Lana & we could admire the Church of St. Pancras in the distance. If you ever get lost along the lanes, the Church makes a good landmark back towards the A3072 at Weekstone Cross.

By constantly bearing right, we achieved a very pleasant circular walk. We could have stayed on the lanes but we ventured along the footpath on our right which effectively follows the route of the Bude Aqueduct bringing us out at Puckland. At one point, we could have turned right & returned to our cars by going through the Nature Reserve. For the same reason as I mentioned earlier, we didn't take that option but I would like to go back there in drier weather. The lane took us past Broomhill on our right & by turning right at Dunsdon Cross, we completed our right hand loop & returned to the entrance to the car park.



For those of you with an OS map, you could trace our route quite easily. Of course, there are more modern ways of doing the same. It took us less than two hours with various stops to discuss the way markers. I hadn't considered that there were so many ways of pronouncing some of the local names including Pancrasweek, Lana & the best was Lishaperhill. I felt pretty safe with Puckland & Broomhill! Just to confuse the matter, one of the way markers referred to Kilkhampton & Statton (?!). To brighten up our walk, we spotted an early Primrose & we identified stalactites on one of the bridges over the Bude Aqueduct. It really wasn't too muddy underfoot so I'm guessing that not many people know about this lovely walk. Oops, the secret is out now.

The next walk will be on Monday 14th March. We will set off at 10am from the Village Hall car park in Bridgerule. Anyone is welcome to join me. If you would like more information, you can contact me.

Evelyn Sharman Tel: 01409 259 848 Email: [evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com](mailto:evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com)

## Clawton Litter Pick

Come and join us in a Clawton Litter Pick led by Andy Rogers on **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00pm** meeting at the Parish Hall. Help to keep the lanes of Clawton clean and encourage wildlife. All gloves and equipment will be provided. The hall will be open afterwards for refreshments - look forward to seeing you there.

## LATE NOTICE - ROAD CLOSURES

Herdicott to Churchtown, for laying ducts:

- 11 March from 0930 - 1530
- 16-18 March from 0800 – 1700 daily



# CLAWTON VILLAGE SURVEY

Looking back at the Parish Survey in 2012 much has been achieved.

Over the past 10 years with support from Torridge DC we have succeeded in locating the owners of the two buildings next to the former shop (East Cottage and the old Chapel schoolroom) and promoting their sale. East Cottage has been fully restored to a family home and the old Chapel schoolroom has been purchased and given a new roof and hopefully will be renovated in due course. We also made contact with the owner of the old Chapel who have carried out repairs and stay there from time to time.

We have supported a modest number of new-build houses while trying to ensure the interests of local residents are taken into account. When the development next to the village car park begins we will be given some land to extend the car park and we have reserved funds to surface it.

The Housing Association which owns the garages at Claw Park now have planning permission to demolish them and the plan is to provide extra parking for the school to try to mitigate the congestion which still occurs at the end of the school day.

We have supported the church in the maintenance of the churchyard, which is a public facility open to all denominations and none. We have supported the village hall committee who have done a great job of refurbishing and updating the hall and the facilities, including the kitchen and the car park.

We have taken on the future cost of the defibrillator at the hall entrance which was originally funded by money raised by Anita Fisher and the Parish Hall Committee.

For a couple of years now many households have been able to access fast broadband via the Airband system. Within the next few months Superfast Broadband will be available to many through the Airband Fibre to the Premises system supported by the Connecting Devon and Somerset programme.

## 2022 Survey

Please help Clawton Parish Council to assess the ongoing needs of our community by completing the overleaf questionnaire. It will tell us how you feel about your village and what change if any you would like to see. Without an accurate picture of your views the Parish Council can't know with confidence what should be their priorities on your behalf.

This questionnaire is being delivered to every household in Clawton with the Clarion. Please try to reflect the views of all members of your household.

The survey is being hosted, processed and analysed free of charge by Mystery Shoppers Ltd as part of their community support and no cost will be incurred by the Parish. In accordance with the Market Research Society Code of Conduct all replies will be treated in the strictest of confidence. Individual names and addresses are not required, and are not asked for.

If you can, please complete the questionnaire online at:

<https://online.mystery-shoppers.co.uk/iwr.asp?project=OpinionSurvey2022>

This saves us having to input your data manually. We suggest you complete it in one sitting – it will time out if you leave it too long. If you prefer to complete the paper form overleaf, completed forms can be posted in the box in the bus shelter in the car park opposite the former shop or posted to Higher Sellick, Clawton EX22 6PS. The survey will close on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Please rate the following:	Excellent	Good	OK	Poor	Very Poor	N/A or No view	COMMENTS (if POOR or VERY POOR please tell us how you would like to see them improved)
Village Hall							
Clawton Clarion							
Parish Council - handling of planning matters							
Parish Council - keeping people informed							
Parish Council - keeping the village a pleasant place to live							
Parish Council - representing the views and wishes of residents							
St. Leonard's Church							
St. Leonard's Churchyard							
Footpaths							
Quality of Life in the village							
What ONE thing would you like to see changed or happen?							
Any other comments:							

No. of children below 12 years old in this household who would like to receive a Platinum Jubilee souvenir