

CLAWTON CLARION

February 2023



Welcome to the February edition of the Clawton Clarion

What a wet and windy start to the year! We have a soggy doggy, trees caught in the freeze and the grass..... I'll stop here and leave the poetry to Les.

This month we have news of upcoming community events and a plea for help to restore the church organ, as I write this Christine informs me that we are off to a good fundraising start which is fantastic news!

Please send contributions for the next edition by email to clawtonclarion@gmail.com or by phone 01409 259972 by midday on Thursday 16th February.

'Women on Wednesday'

The next meeting is on
Wednesday 1st February 2023
At 7.30 p.m.

In Clawton Village Hall.

The speaker is Rupert Kirkwood who will giving a presentation entitled 'All at Sea and Up the Creek'.

Visitors are welcome.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Alison

Dates for your diary:

Event	Date	Time	Place
Women on Wednesday	Wednesday 1 st February	7:00pm	Clawton Parish Hall
Breakfast Church	Saturday 4 th February	9:00am	Arscott Hall
Holy Communion – Rev Stephen Skinner	Sunday 12 th February	11:00am	St Leonard's Church
Valentine Sunday Lunch	Sunday 12 th February	1:00pm	Clawton Parish Hall
Evelyn's Walk	Monday 13 th February	10:00am	Bridgerule Village Hall
Wine and Wisdom	Friday 24 th February	7:15pm	Clawton Parish Hall
Methodist Service – Lorna Bowden	Sunday 26 th February	11:00am	St Leonard's Church

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EVELYN'S WALK

I've just returned home after a bracing walk on Monday 9th January. The weather last night was very wet & windy!! Thankfully, it stopped raining & the wind had eased by the time we set off from Clawton Village Hall at 10am. Looking back at my records, we used to walk in Clawton annually in September. We enjoyed sunshine and we endured the heaviest rain. We have had to negotiate some seriously challenging stiles and now we have self-closing gates. We have had to negotiate "Amazon rainforest" (fields of Maize) and now we have lush grassy fields. It was lovely to repeat a route that we last walked as a group in September 2018 and share all sorts of memories of previous walks in Clawton.

From the Hall, we turned left down the hill and then joined the footpath on the right. It was a bit soggy underfoot but not too bad. It was well way-marked and brought us out at Higher Sellick. We continued to follow the footpath which took us across the fields to Hole Park. We joined the road that runs between North Tamerton and Chasty. By turning right and right again, we followed the lane back towards our cars at the Hall. It was a bit muddy in places but hey it's January in Devon and perfectly passible with suitable footwear. I was pleased that the route was generally well marked, passable with minor trimming of brambles and the two wooden footbridges were in good order. Generally, we all agreed that we had enjoyed the walk and looked forward to more walks together in the months ahead.

The next walk will be on Monday 13th February. We will set off from Bridgerule Village Hall car park at 10am. Everyone is most welcome to join us. If you would like any more information, please contact me.

Evelyn Sharman Tel: 01409 259 848

Email: evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com



CLAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

BY PAUL GRAFTON

Ice and snow

We now have salt and grit in bags. Some have been placed on the four hills (the grit bins are not positioned at the steepest bits). Paul will use the gritter trailer when he is around and judges there is a serious need, and on request. Please call 07794 913757 (early mornings 01409 271456). Anyone else with a suitable tow vehicle is welcome to use the gritter trailer.

Emergency Alert System

The Government is introducing a system which enables emergency messages (flood warnings for example) to all mobile phones connected to masts in the affected areas. Your phone will emit an alarm tone quite different from any other to alert you to the emergency message.

The emergency services and the UK government do not need your phone number to send you an alert. You will get alerts based on your current location – not where you live or work. No one will collect or share data about you, your device or your location when you receive an alert. You will not get alerts if your device is turned off or in aeroplane mode.

Emergency alerts are free. You do not need to sign up for them or download an app. You can opt out of some emergency alerts, but you should keep them switched on for your own safety.

Emergency alerts work on all 4G and 5G phone networks in the UK. Phones and tablets connected to a 2G or 3G network will not receive emergency alerts. Your phone needs to be running the latest versions of your operating system.

More information is at <https://www.gov.uk/alerts>

Power Allotments Devon

This is a scheme to identify sites of 5 acres or

more which a community can offer for solar panels.

The idea is that if every village were to do so it would be a huge contribution towards emission reduction. In return a source of income for the community would be generated, and the scheme incorporates the enhancement of local biodiversity.

To help communities share their local knowledge, an online toolkit has been developed that enables people to identify parts of their neighbourhood that could be suitable for an energy project. They will then collect and analyse these sites and prioritise those with the most potential for further studies.

More information is at:

<https://devonenergycic.co.uk/our-projects/power-allotments-devon/>

Planning

A number of planning applications were considered at the recent Parish Council meeting including:

- 1/1218/2022/FUL (Kempthorn)
Agricultural building erection to replace storm damaged building
- 1/0936/2022/FUL (Gunnacott farm)
silage cover (Permitted)
- 1/1084/2022/FUL (Fernhill Farm)
Retrospective application for the erection of cover over existing silage pit
- 1/1129/2022/FUL (Little Blagdon) Change of use of self-contained annexe to independent dwelling

No objections were made to any of the applications.

Computer Screens

Paul Grafton has about 10 surplus desktop screens (about 19" diagonal) which are free to a good home. Email paul@devonholidays.org or call or text 07794 913757.

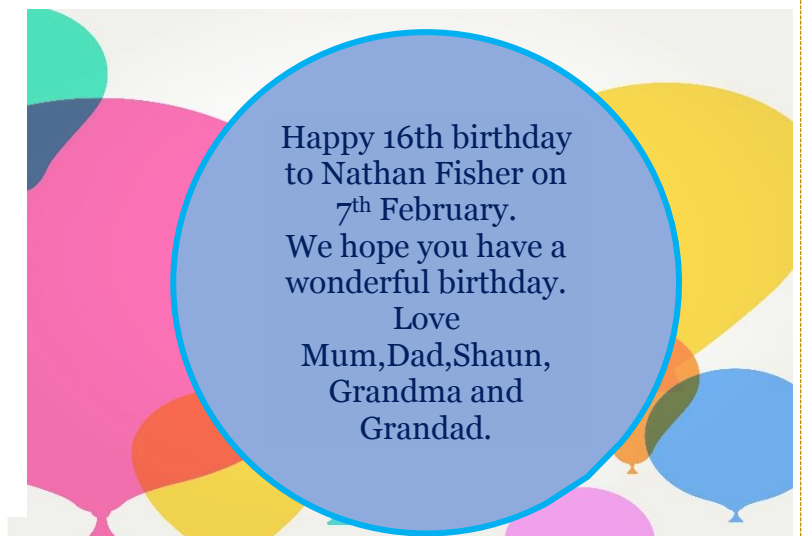
POETRY BY LES

MOTHERS KNOW BEST (Town Farm Moyra)

Don't cast a clout till May be out
So goes the saying old,
Keep your winter woollies on
To keep out all the cold.
Wear a hat upon your head,
Thick socks upon your feet,
And do you know that flannel red
Helps to retain the heat?
It's best to keep your long johns on
When icy winds are blowing.
We don't know where the wind is from
But we know where it is going.
Brown paper wrapped around your chest
Will hold the cold at bay,
And you'll find goose grease is best
When rubbed on every day.
Have a little drop of whisky
To keep you nice and warm,
If you start feeling frisky
It won't do any harm.
So please take heed of her advice
When from heat you have run out,
Protect yourself from snow and ice
And do not cast a clout.

No offence to MARCUS - our Fantastic Postie.

The postal force is out on strike,
All across the nation,
Disputing with the management,
Their pay and price inflation.
So nothing will be dropping on
Our lonely doormats now,
It's going to be a problem+,
But we'll get by some how.
No birthday cards, no letters,
No statements nor postcards
No magazines.....no bills.
No friendly words with Postie,
No legs for dogs to bite,
I hope it's over very soon:
"Please end our postless plight!"



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CLAWTON PARISH HALL BY MARALYN BAILEY

February 2023

Survived January??

Now there are more events to look forward to in our hall.

We are hosting a Valentine lunch on SUNDAY 12th February, this is not just for couples.

There will be three courses - cost will be £15 per head. We look forward to seeing you.

A vegetarian option will be available, we will do our best to accommodate dietary needs.

But not too complicated please!

Friday 24th February 7.15 for a 7.30 start - The Hall's Wine & Wisdom, our question master will be from the Parker household. Jokes guaranteed! Holsworthy Ales beers available along with the usual array of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Great mid Quiz supper too.

For these two events along with any other enquiries please book with Maralyn on 01409271315 or mobile 07368 621009 or email maralynjohn@hotmail.com. Numbers are essential for catering.

We are still struggling with the costing of the electricity - it has been worked out that one heater costs £2 per hour to run. It is essential that all electrical items are switched off at the end of a hiring. We are asking for one person to be nominated by each group to do these checks before leaving. Sorry to be like Big Brother but we also insist that the dishwasher is always used, we can then guarantee that the plates, cutlery etc are always cleaned by a high temperature. If the users cannot empty the dishwasher please leave it for the next committee member who comes to the hall.

On behalf of the Parish Council I have been tasked with finding out if everyone in the village knows of the Ring and Ride service, I understand this has been used in the past by some. It is a useful service taking people to supermarkets, places of interest, garden

centres. The drivers are very friendly and helpful. The booking office is in the foyer of the Memorial Hall in Holsworthy car park. Cost wise it is £10 per annum to join and normally £10 for a trip out. They pick you up at your door - and deliver you back. Times are 9am to 4ish. Timing is difficult depending on the pick up points.

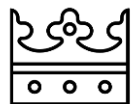
Our brewery afternoons still prove to be popular with a cosy atmosphere, plenty of chatter and laughter.

The bar is open between 3.30 and 6.30, coffee available too.

Our programme of repairs & improvements will be starting soon, much weather dependant! Lots of topics are being discussed by the committee. We strive to ensure the community has a busy hub for everyone.

There is an enormous amount of activities to look forward to in 2023.

Including a celebration of King Charles' coronation.



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.

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or more information visit
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*subject to eligibility

MUM'S THE WORD

BY ANN GOODSPEED



For those of you interested in how my recovery from the leg break went, which I documented last month, I thought this may be the perfect opportunity to finalise the story.

I overcame the disappointment that no pen of any type could master the surface of the fibreglass cast. I just had to endure the gaudy pink surface that I'd selected.

Once the snow started to disappear, we could go out and I quickly realised what benefit a good sense of humour is.

Our ventures were initially restricted to supermarkets as they had wheelchairs. The disadvantage was the frustration as Steve would leave me in the middle of an aisle and venture off to somewhere usually behind me calling out "do we need any of these" Waitrose definitely won the wheelchair survey for comfort though.

When the novelty of the shopping wore off, we bought a wheelchair of our own – just a cheap one. When I think back now, it would have been a good idea to also purchase strong supportive underwear. Every bump, stone and pavement crack was felt in every part of my body. Cobbles were to be avoided as was the gravel path in Okehampton Park.

If I was a permanent wheelchair user I would not be a nice person. It used to test my patience. On one visit to Roadford Lake we managed to take out an entire display of jigsaws. They were positioned just inside the cafe on a very attractive Parisian looking trolley and having manipulated the door and being inexperienced with the steering it was inevitable. A garden centre we went to had stacked up a lot of stock outside the disabled toilet door and a pub that we went in didn't have a ladies or disabled toilet on the ground floor and no lift. Just 2 flights of stairs. My only option was to use the gents!!!! I'm proud that we were able to highlight and change these practices.

It was good, albeit not a recommended way, to enjoy the freedom of not being at work. To visit places without crowds was bliss. One outing took us to a lake where Steve parked me on the slope so that I could enjoy the view. Had he not shown up on the right of me about 10ft away, I would have been able to relax too.

Before I had to return to work, I thought I'd be frivolous and spend some of the £76 per week that the government granted me for being sick. I booked online for us to go to the cinema in Exeter to see a 3D film. When we got there the guy in the ticket office said he had to cancel our tickets and reallocate them. We were given a refund as Steve was my carer (that was questionable after the lake incident) and he didn't have to pay. We were assured that the seats we had were unsuitable and he arranged to have us escorted to a more accessible area. It was like having a private box and we even had a toilet to ourselves. Result.

Once I progressed to just using crutches it opened up even more opportunities and I can't finish this log without describing one of our last trips before I could return to work.

We went to Daymer Bay which was a favourite spot for the dog we had at the time. I think she loved that it was firm flat sand and she could see so far into the distance.

As we walked along, I heard the sound of a flute playing. We stopped and listened, but it had gone. Disappointed we continued on and whilst in conversation I heard it again. I was convinced it was coming from near to the rocks. Someone was busking or maybe just enjoying the atmosphere and playing a favoured tune. As we neared the rock there was nobody to be seen but the noise continued, and it was even clearer. It was louder with the sound bouncing off the rock but not a soul to be seen. Then came the realisation that I was the one providing the orchestration.

The wind was whistling through the holes that are used to adjust the height of the crutches and played a very effective background tune.

On my final hospital appointment, I was surprised that they didn't want the equipment back. They did, however, offer to let me have my cast which I politely declined.

Twelve years later and I still haven't thought of a use for it, so I made the right decision. It was good to get back to normal and return to driving and shopping alone. It was even nice to go back to work initially.

The temptation of applying to Britain's got Talent only briefly touched my imagination.

Although "Ann Goodspeed and her Whistling Crutch" does have a certain ring to it 🎵

HOLSWORTHY WALK AND TALK

We have good turnouts on our January walks despite the weather being inclement. Having not held our Monday Walk in the Park for a couple of weeks due to Bank Holidays it has been lovely to catch up with everyone again. After a blustery, and sometimes damp, walk we have been able to sit comfortably in the Pavilion with a well-earned cuppa hearing news and tales of travels over the festivities with lots of laughter for good measure. Someone mentioned our 'chuckle muscle' which Ken Dodd advised should be exercised every day. We are definitely in agreement with that!

Although February is a short month we have a good selection of walks including Dunsland Snowdrop walk. The snowdrops around the site of the old mansion house can be spectacular although they can also sometimes be a little sparse. We are looking forward to seeing their efforts this year.

With great sadness we learned that Penelope (Penny) Weighell had passed away shortly before Christmas. Penny had been a member of Holsworthy Walk and Talk for approximately 15 years and was always ready with a smile of welcome, a sympathetic ear and the offer of a lift to those in need. It was Penny who initially put forward the concept for our Monday Walk in the Park, having identified a need for people with limited mobility to have access to a gentle stroll within a supportive, sociable environment. The success of the Monday Group is testament to Penny's intuition and many enjoy her legacy during which can be difficult times in their lives. Our sincere condolences go to John, Penny's husband, and their family.

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

<https://holsworthywalkandtalk.co.uk>

Gillian Aston 07854677784

Mike Jackson 01409 261196

Paul Davies 01409 253250



Peacefully passed away
on Friday 6th January 2023
aged 82 years of Clawton.

Loving Husband to Veronica.
Much loved Dad to Eileen
and her Brothers.

Funeral service will be held at
St Leonard's Church, Clawton
on Friday 3rd February 2023 at 2.30pm.

Family flowers only please.

Donations may be
given if desired for
'Alzheimer's Society'
and
'Stroke Association'
by retiring collection
or c/o

Arthur W. Bryant Funeral Service
25 The Square, Holsworthy,
Devon EX22 6AN
TEL: 01409 253000

CLAWTON ORGAN REPAIRS APPEAL BY CHRISTINE MARCH

The pipe organ in Clawton Church is about one hundred and seventy years old. It is still in regular use for Church services, weddings, funerals etc.



Although quite small, compared to many other pipe organs, it has a nice bright tone and has served the community well. The Clawton organ is probably unique in that the foot pedals are in the wrong place, compared to the standard layout for organs. This makes for an interesting playing experience, when I drive to Clawton for the 11.00 a.m. service, immediately after playing at 9.30 a.m. at Ashwater. It takes a little while for my brain (and feet) to adjust.

This design feature is probably down to the fact that the Victorian organs in our villages were usually assembled by local organ builders, from components that could be ordered from catalogues. I can only think that whoever constructed the Clawton organ had never played one, or they would have made sure the pedals were in the right place.

Over the years, the Clawton organ has been moved around the Church several times. Before electricity was installed in the church, the organ was pumped by hand. There is an interesting collection of graffiti on the side of the organ, where the young person tasked with pumping obviously got bored.

An electric blower was eventually added to the organ, but the hand pump wasn't removed. This was just as well, because in 2022, when I arrived to play for a funeral, I found that there was a fault with the electricity supply to the organ. After a quick course in how to maintain an even pressure in the bellows, a young bell-ringer pumped the organ for the hymns. It turned out that his grandfather used to pump the Ashwater organ, so the family tradition continued.

The organ is now showing its age, but it's not beyond repair. At its last tuning, we were told that some of the organ pipes were on the point of collapse. Corrosion starts inside the lower part of the pipe and moves gradually upward inside the pipe toward the mouth area where sound is generated. If nothing is done, the pipe will collapse.

We have had a quotation of £2000 to sort out this issue and it would be lovely if the organ could remain in a playable condition. The work needs to be completed as soon as possible and at least by the end of 2023.

We have launched an appeal to raise this money. Clawton Church does not have sufficient funds to pay for this work, in addition to the substantial running costs of the building. We hope that everyone will consider that this is a cause worth supporting. If you pay income tax, your donation will be increased by an extra 25%, from gift aid.

I have offered to look after the administration of this appeal. Please contact me to make a donation, in whichever way is most convenient. I can also provide a Gift Aid form.

Christine March (Organist)
01409 211340
christine.march@btopenworld.com

Valentine Sunday lunch
At our hall 12th February 1pm
Everyone is welcome - not just for couples!!

Three course meal
Vegetarian option available

£15 per person
Alcoholic drinks available to purchase.
Booking is essential:
271315 or 07368 621009 or via a committee member
Profits will start a fund to update the kitchen area to bring it up to catering standards.