

# CLAWTON CLARION



## December 2023

It's CHRISTMAAAAAAAAAAAS—well not quite, but with deadlines and printing times, I'm having to get in- to the spirit nice and early, and I'm not the only one. Please see the events organised over the festive season listed below, including an invite to share a cuppa or glass of festive cheer at Editor's HQ ! it would be lovely to see and meet you.

I'd like to remind everyone that if you'd like an electronic version of this newsletter, please drop me an email to [clawtonclarion@gmail.com](mailto:clawtonclarion@gmail.com). This email address is also for you to send any local news or interest items that may be shared with us all. If you would like to see your items published, please send them in by midday on 20th. Views expressed by our contributors are of course their own, and not those of the Parish Council.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy Christmas.

*Alison*

Event	Time	Date	Place
Women on Wednesday	7:00pm	Wednesday 6th December	The Village Inn
Coffee Morning	10:30—12:00pm	Friday 8th December	Clawton Parish Hall
Railway Club	7:00pm	Friday 9th December	Clawton Parish Hall
United Morning Service with Rev'd Simon Leigh	11:00am	Sunday 10th December	St Leonard's Church
Whist	7:30pm	Wednesday 13th December	Clawton Parish Hall
Open House	11:00—3:00pm	Saturday 23rd December	The Old Post Office
Carol Service with Rev'd Dr Paul Fitzpatrick	11:00am	Sunday 24th December	St Leonard's Church
Parish Council Meeting	7:30pm	Tuesday 16th January	Clawton Parish Hall

# HOLSWORTHY WALK AND TALK BY GILLIAN ASTON



One of our Level 3 walks from a varied programme last month was at Highampton. Parking at Windmilland Cross we walked across the old railway line, through woodland and up through some quite soggy fields and back along the roads and railway line. The Level 3 route usually takes us in a loop around Odham but our Walk Leaders for the day considered it too wet to be safe. We did, however, walk down the road to Odham which gave us the lovely backdrop for our photo. On our way back we passed Burdon Grange, which is currently a home for residents ranging from young adults to elderly care, including those with physical and sensory impairment. The views across to Dartmoor from there are quite spectacular. The original house and lands are reported to have been in the Burdon family since Anglo Saxon times and the dining room still boasts Jacobean panelling around its walls. The rain managed to hold off until we had returned to our cars and the sun was even glinting through the autumnal leaves which were still bravely holding onto the trees despite the recent storms.

The festive season will not interrupt our Friday walk programme but the Walk in the Park will have two days being 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and 1st January 2014 when we will not be walking.

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 07854677784





## EVELYN'S WALK

Evelyn Sharman Tel: 01409 259 848

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

On Monday 13th November, we met at Higher Larkworthy Farm with kind permission of the Kirk family. It's very much a working farm so we were very grateful for their kind hospitality. We reminisced about when we first went there for a walk in November 2019. There was some reluctance about actually leaving the farm for the walk as there was a litter of adorable puppies to coo over. We also remembered the fact that our walk had coincided with Remembrance Day & we had held a minute's silence at the top of Kit Hill. Nothing wrong with anyone's memory four years down the line.

By popular request, we followed the same route which took us through Larkworthy Farm & across the fields. We were all delighted to meet the sheep in an adjacent field. I believe they are known as Valais Blacknose. The breed was first brought into the UK from Switzerland in 2014 & has the reputation for being "the cutest sheep in the world". I'm reliably informed that we have had 158mm of rain between 1st & 13th November. Thankfully, the ground had absorbed it quite well & it wasn't too wet underfoot. The route was well marked & took us over a wooden foot bridge in order to cross the stream. We queried what it is called & in the absence of a phone signal to look it up, we christened it "Larkworthy Water". The footpath joined the lane at Henford. By turning left towards Ashwater, we went down the hill & across what I believe is called Henford Water which feeds into the River Carey. We then took deep breaths before plodding up Kit Hill. The views at the top were beautiful especially with the autumnal leaves. We then joined the private track which took us back to Higher Larkworthy Farm. We all noted that the trees in the orchard have grown well & the Glamping Pods blend in well with the natural environment.

This is going to be the last of my walks for this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the land owners who have kindly given us permission to park on their property; all the people who have led the walks; all those who have provided the most excellent company; & those at & in conjunction with DCC who work hard behind the scenes to keep our PROWs accessible for us to enjoy.

*Evelyn*

### Stacey's Christmas Tree Farm

Open

18th November- 24th December 9am-  
5.30pm everyday.

All sizes of Christmas and pot grown trees  
from 2ft-6ft available.

Christmas shop selling lights and decorations.

Father Christmas visiting:  
w/e's November 25th/26th  
and December 2nd/3rd  
Saturdays 10.30am - 4pm  
Sunday 11am - 3.30pm.  
No charge and a small gift.

Holsworthy Town band will be playing some  
festive tunes on Saturday 2nd December  
11am - 1pm  
(weather permitting)

We look forward to seeing  
you.

Tel: 07780497778 and  
07530284507.



# CLAWTON PARISH HALL BY MARALYN BAILEY



As winter closes in on us, here's a reminder that we still have the book and puzzle exchange system working in the hall. The hall is always open Mondays from 1.30 pm to 4.30pm when the bowls club meets. The hall can also be accessed on other occasions when we have bookings but unfortunately, it is difficult to leave the hall unattended due to insurance requirements.

Do use our Christmas card drop off point! We have a postbox where cards can be left, or cards can be dropped in when the hall is open. Distribution will happen at the coffee morning; do remember, all are welcome. We also will have our facebook Christmas greetings page for your messages. Our hall is now decorated for the Christmas season, in preparation for the craft fayre on the last Sunday in November. It has created much interest and given home crafters a place to exhibit the items made.

We thank Nigel & Edwina for the wonderful Christmas tree, and wish them a successful season at Stacey's Christmas tree farm with their huge selection of lights & tree decorations..

The hall continues to attract bookings - some weeks being fully booked in the evenings. We aim to be the hub of the community.

As a household we have been wondering what to do with outdated mobile phones etc, I have requested a sack to be delivered to assist funds for MacMillan Cancer research. Should you wish to contribute, do let us know.

January will be a quieter month for us, the weather always being a major factor. February will bring the start of 2024 events.

We thank Kerry for her painting skills in the kitchen update. On that note we hope to have a facelift in the hall during 2024, as the decor is looking a little tired. The next project will be updating the ladies' toilet area.

We thank all of our supporters, even those unable to attend our events but support us nevertheless. On behalf of the committee we send our best wishes for a happy Christmas and healthy new year.

Maralyn



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# MUM'S THE WORD

BY ANN GOODSPEED

Christmas eve is my most favourite day of Christmas.

The tidy house, delicious aromas, gifts all bought and the anticipation of surprises and celebrations, to me, it has such a magical feeling. I love it.

As a child it was different. There were at least 72 hours in a Christmas eve. It went on forever. There were sweets in bowls and fruit on display everywhere in the house. None of which we were allowed to touch 'til Christmas'!

The traditional box of dates which we only ever saw at this time of year, would be put in position on the sideboard. I never saw anybody eat them ever and the sticky horrid things would be in the bin after the new year.

I remember becoming stressed in the evening when the coal fire, our only source of heat, was still lit when I was going to bed. As I went up the stairs with my hot water bottle I prayed that Father Christmas wouldn't skip past our house because the chimney was too hot. I would then take on the position of laying with my eyes open as wide as I could until they stung so that closing them would then be a welcome relief.

As an adult, I still love the warm feelings that only Christmas Eve has. This year our Christmas Eve will begin at the carol service at St Leonard's Church but before that, we'd like to extend an open invitation to our home on Saturday 23rd December at The Old Post Office for a glass of mulled wine (or cup of tea) and mince pie. Something to break a last minute shopping journey or give a break from tedious chores.

Please pop in anytime between 11am and 3pm to say hello and pass on greetings. We'd love to see you and maybe start a new annual tradition.

*Annie*



**'Women on Wednesday'**

**The next meeting is on Wednesday 6th December 2023**

**It is the members' annual Christmas Meal.**

**This year the meal is at the Village Inn, Ashwater.**

**Members are to meet there at 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.**



# POETRY

## BY LES AT TOWN

My legs are getting weary,  
My shoulders feeling tight.  
I'm sitting in my comfy chair,  
My specs are not in sight.  
I'll have to move to find them.  
And have a real good look.  
I hope the turn up very soon,  
I need to read my book (Farmer's Weekly)  
With a pen in hand and paper near,  
I must get my brain a-working,  
The crossword's getting harder  
But for me there is no shirking.  
My reference books are by my side  
I don't think that is cheating.  
As long as I can see the print  
From me you'll get no bleating.  
At 10pm I go to bed.  
Book and glasses at the ready,  
And then I start to close my eyes.  
With breathing nice and steady.  
At 6am when I awake  
I'm ready for the day,  
And then I start where I left off -  
Once more into the fray!

## Damp Autumn Weather at Town Farm

It's Autumn; misty, morning dew,  
Green leaves are on the turn,  
Some days are sunny, warm, and bright,  
On others, skies will churn.  
I watch the TV weather  
Which makes it very plain  
It would be so idyllic -  
If it wasn't for the rain...  
The grass still long and green and lush,  
We wear our wellies now  
And wrap up against chilly winds  
Which might blow up some how.  
And often we strip off our coats  
It's warm still, in the main.  
I'd like to leave my coat at home -  
But for the threat of rain...again.  
It's always there, the loud logo  
Reminding us, take care,  
A shower could pour down any time  
And catch us unaware.  
Don't get me wrong, I'm not awry  
Of getting soaked again,  
But it would be so easy to keep dry  
Without the drops of rain.



### Town Farm steam powered computer

How irksome passwords are required, to help safeguard us all;

But when they fail to make the grade, they drive me up the wall.

Sometimes we're told the code we used cannot be recognized,

The password was not correct and needs to be revised.

So now we have to make a change, and do just as they ask,

Which is just never simple and becomes a lengthy task.

The rule is not to use just one, but to have other passwords too,

Writ nothing down, but memorize - which can be hard to do,

For as I am no longer young, my memory is not strong.

From time to time, regrettably, the term I use is wrong.

Life was so much easier back in the good old days,

When there was no technology -- with all its complex ways.

Les.with bloodshot eyes.

### The New Parliament 2023

When King Charles 3 addressed Lords and M.P.s,

Watched by millions on worldwide TVs,

And he made a slight pause,

Was he foreseeing some flaws,

Or just thinking of planting more trees?

## MORE FROM LES ....

### Fixing things at Town Farm !

!!It matters not if it's sunny and bright

Or cold or dreary and grey,

Or if there is work that needs to be done

Or if it's a day for play.

The radio's silent, the phone is on mute,

And there's no intruders allowed.

As you can see, there's only me,

So two would make up a crowd.

For here, in my little oasis of calm

I'm peaceful, contented, and snug.

Imbibing the warmth, the aroma, the taste

Of the elixir held in this mug.

I don't puff on ciggies, and vaping's not me,

And booze doesn't hold any kicks,

But a mug of hot tea to start off my day

Is ... yes,I'll admit it, my fix..!!

Merry Christmas



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

BY PAUL GRAFTON

## Airband FTTP project

**Airband FTTP project:** After award of the contract to install fibre to our area to Airband we were given a presentation in November 2020 outlining the project.

Timescales were given as:

NF040 –Clawton

- Surveying due to begin Summer 2021
- Build planned for Autumn/Winter 2021
- Completion due Spring 2022
- Build dates estimated, timings may change

Since then we have seen some activity both by vans with the Airband logo and others which turned out to be sub-contractors. But no news, either from the company or from Connecting Devon and Somerset which is running the project on behalf of the Government.

Our elected Devon County Councillor has not been seen or (largely) heard from since the election in May 2021 so I emailed the office of our MP, Sir Geoffrey Cox, even though strictly speaking local authority matters aren't in his area of responsibility. I did however receive a prompt response giving the text of the reply his office had received. It reads (exactly) as follows:

*“The village of Clawton sits within our Cluster NF040. This is a particularly large cluster (94 kms of cabling) and has been extremely challenging. There has been delays in getting the main connection to the cabinet to bring “light” or the data signal to the cluster. There has also lots of ongoing works to connect from the cabinet outwards to ensure that the splice connections, and parallel works to stand some of the infrastructure in preparation. The Light is needed to ensure that all the splice connections from the Cabinet along the main spine route, to all the Laterally branches off this and further branches to the distribution points, are resilient and reliable to provide a stable connection.*

*The forecast from the Project Team responsible for this cluster is that they a working to complete by Q1 2024 (spring).*

*We do understand communities frustrations, but the teams are working as expediently as practicable to ensure this is a robust network for these communities.”*

Hmmmmmm.....We'll see.....



**Shopping online can save time and effort and gives you a wide choice of goods from around the world.**

**Unfortunately, while most buyers and sellers are genuine, fraudsters use online shopping scams because they can hide their identity and target many victims at the same time.**

## What you can do to protect yourself

### Buying online

Do some research to find out what a fair or competitive price is for similar goods in the same condition; if the offer sounds too good to miss out on, it might not really exist, be fake or of inferior quality.

Fraudsters often use stock images or other people's images, or use the same image on multiple websites/adverts. You can check if images appear elsewhere on the internet through websites like [TinEye](#) or [reverse.photos](#).

Check the seller or buyer's review history and feedback from other reviewers. Beware of accounts that may have been set up very recently with lots of favourable feedback that sounds similar, this could be an indication of fake reviews.

Always use the site's recommended payment site, if they have one, and read the terms and conditions to understand what you are protected for. If you pay any other way than via a recommended payment site, you may not be able to recover your money.

Where there's no recommended payment site, paying via credit card or known third party payment providers is preferable to direct bank transfers. Check your bank statements or online account regularly.

Make sure that the website you're buying from is genuine – and not a fake or copycat site – by typing in the address yourself and checking the spelling. Fake addresses usually vary from authentic ones with just one or two incorrect letters.

Research sellers' and other bidders' selling history. And bear in mind that a website ending '.co.uk' doesn't necessarily mean it's based in the UK. Check the address of the company and the phone number.

Don't make payment over insecure WiFi (a public WiFi or one with no password to access).

Make sure you're making payments on a secure site. You can check the link is secure in two ways:

1. there should be a padlock symbol in the browser window where you can see the site address / URL when you log in or register (beware on unfamiliar sites as this can be faked); if you're not sure the webpage is genuine, don't use it.; be sure that the padlock is within the address bar at the top of the screen, not on the page itself
2. the web address should begin with 'https://'; the 's' stands for 'secure'

To read this and further information online, please visit: <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/personal-fraud/online-shopping>

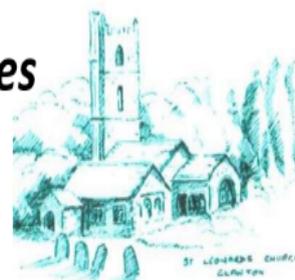


# Christmas Carols

*With mulled wine and mince pies*

St. Leonard's Church

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11am



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## NEWS FROM THE BREWERY

We will be open on 9th, 16th and 23rd December from 3.30pm-6.30pm.

Please come and join us for a pint, chat and mince pies.

We will also have Christmas gifts and supplies to get you through the holidays.