

# CLAWTON CLARION

March 2023



## Welcome to the March edition of the Clawton Clarion

As I put this edition together, I can hear lawnmowers and strimmers working away in nearby gardens. The sunshine is glorious. This has inspired George to dry out the charcoal left outside of the shed last summer, and prepare for a barbeque this afternoon. Surely, we are the first in the village, possibly in the county to hit alfresco dining before the clocks change. The chef may be outside but the rest of us will be watching through a window. In true Greek tradition, George has cooked enough to feed the village. I'd suggest popping in for leftovers but in true George tradition, it is unlikely that there will be any! Bring on the spring sunshine.

Please send contributions for the next edition by email to [clawtonclarion@gmail.com](mailto:clawtonclarion@gmail.com) or by phone 01409 259972 by midday on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

Alison

## Dates for your diary:

Event	Date	Time	Place
Women on Wednesday	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	7:30pm	Clawton Parish Hall
Whist	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	7:30pm	Clawton Parish Hall
Coffee Morning	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	10:30am	Clawton Parish Hall
Railway Club	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	7:00pm	Clawton Parish Hall
Communion	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	11:00am	St Leonard's Church
Evelyn's Walk	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	10:00am	Clawton Parish Hall
Prospective Candidate Evening for Parish Councillor	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	6:00pm	Bideford Town Hall
Methodist Service – Lorna Bowden	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	11:00am	St Leonard's Church

# EVELYN'S WALK

Several people questioned why we would want to walk in Bridgerule given that footpaths are noticeable by their absence. However, in my mind it is one of our local "best kept secrets" & I was keen to share it. On Monday 13th February, we met in the Village Hall car park. It was interesting having arrived early to guess who was going to join me on a walk; who was there to visit the Post Office; & who was attending a Zumba class. There were a couple of chaps with clipboards & I never quite fathomed out what their purpose was.

We were very fortunate to have the company of Alan Beat who lives in The Bridge Mill. He & his wife, Rosie, very kindly invited us to explore their smallholding which extends to sixteen acres. Alan led the way & pandered to my request when I asked if we could see the Mowhay. He's in the process of restoring it which is such an important project given that very few Mowhays are still in existence. Fundamentally, it's a traditional pole barn that would have been used to store hay for livestock. As the fodder was gradually used over the winter months, there was a clever winch mechanism enabling the roof to be lowered so that the fodder was less likely to be damaged by the elements. Alan then led us across their land that runs parallel with the road towards the bridge. It gave us the opportunity to see the way that the river is gradually eroding the river banks. He showed us evidence of Ash dieback which has sadly resulted in the felling of several trees. Alan then led us to the rear of the Mill & we had to be careful where we trod so that we didn't squash the early flowering Crocuses. We were fascinated by the fact that Alan has renovated the ancient Mill during the thirty five years that he & Rosie have lived there. The water wheel is fed by the leat & can be seen in action when The Bridge Mill is open to the public. I see from their web site that it will be open on Sundays 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> May. Well worth putting the dates in your diary. We then strolled towards the beautiful ponds that Alan & Rosie have created. Given the passage of time, nature has performed its magic & you have no perception of the tonnes of spoil that emanated from the massive holes that were dug to create the ponds. It's an absolute haven for wildlife. We stood at the top of the hill in the sunshine & enjoyed magnificent panoramic views. It wasn't as tranquil as it had been

last spring given that a housing development is being built in the village at the moment. Hopefully, tranquility will be restored once it is completed.

We were all reluctant to leave but on the other hand nobody wanted to miss the walk up the hill towards St. Bridget's Church. It's such a beautiful structure & I believe it dates back to Norman times. We looked across the way to the former Rectory, now known as Glebe House Cottages. Apparently, the incumbent would have walked along the BOAT (By-way Open to All Traffic), known locally as "Roly Poly", to the Church. It would certainly have been the most direct route. According to history, Father Kingdon was still serving the Parish as Vicar until the age of ninety eight. Something tells me that fresh air & exercise must have been good for him! I'm pleased to report that nobody went for a tumble but it's quite challenging & the name "Roly Poly" is very apt. It was a very pleasant stroll down hill past the School & football ground back towards our cars. We were shown a little path that I didn't know existed. It enabled us to see a route favoured by Hedgehogs. If it hadn't been pointed out to me, I'd have missed it. I think everyone felt that we had been most fortunate with the weather & our walk provided a most enjoyable start to the week.

Our next walk will be on Monday 13th March. We will set off from Clawton Village Hall at 10am with a view to walking in the Parishes of Pyworthy & Clawton. Everyone is most welcome. Please let me know if you would like any information.

Evelyn Sharman Tel: 01409 259 848

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## District and Parish Council Elections

On 4 May this year we have District and Parish Elections within the Torridge District. Current parish councillors wishing to stand again or any prospective new candidate will need to complete and submit a nomination paper **before 4pm on 4th April**. Nomination papers are not available until 20<sup>th</sup> March. Completed nominations can be delivered to Riverbank House on weekdays between 10am and 4pm from 21<sup>st</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April.

A prospective candidate evening is being held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Bideford Town Hall between 6pm – 8pm. Details on the election timetable, nomination papers and Voter ID will be covered at the briefing.

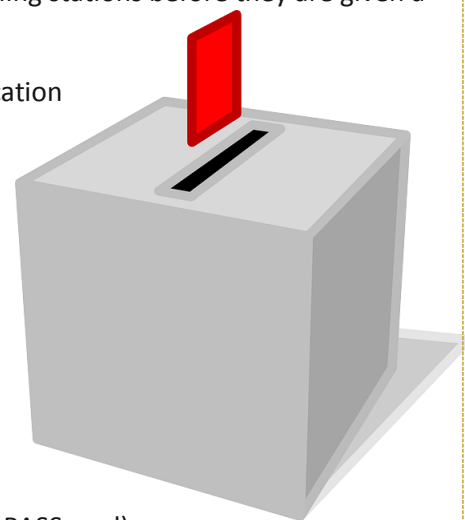
## You now need ID when you go to vote

The Elections Act 2022 requires voters to show photographic identification at polling stations before they are given a ballot paper.

If electors don't already have any of the accepted forms of photographic identification (listed below), they will be able to apply either in person, by post or online, for a Voter Authority Certificate - a free photographic identification document specific for the purposes of voting.

Acceptable forms of photographic identification include:

- A passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- A driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or an EEA state
- A biometric immigration document
- An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- A Blue Badge
- A national identity card issued by an EEA state
- An Older Person's Bus Pass
- A Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- An Oyster 60+ Card
- A Freedom Pass
- Equivalent documents issued in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland
- A Voter Authority Certificate or a temporary Voter Authority Certificate



If the photographic identification document has expired it will still be accepted as long as the photograph is still a good likeness of the elector - this will be at the discretion of the Presiding Officer working at your Polling Station.

Anyone wanting to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate can do so by going to the following link <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>.

***The deadline to apply for a VAC is 5pm on 25 April.***

Paul Grafton, Chair of Clawton PC.

## Tetcott History Night Part 2

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March

For tickets call Wendy on 07876788855



## POETRY BY LES

### MILEAGE My present state of health.

My body and I, we've jogged gently on  
For....well....a good few years,  
Through light and dark, and highs and lows  
With barely a grinding of gears.  
Lately, though, it seems to me,  
That things have come unstuck.  
Broken down, unravelled,  
And even run a mock.  
A tremble here, a wobble there,  
An ache, a twinge, a pain.  
And sometimes I am not quite sure  
That I'm completely sane.  
(I get in the walk in larder and think "what have I  
come for")  
I find that I soon run out of puff,  
And I struggle with the stairs,  
I'd never sell on eBay  
I'm not even good for spares!  
But none can halt the march of Time  
As tick sure follows tock,  
Or try to pull a fast one  
With the mileage on the clock.  
So, I'll just darn the edges  
When they start to wear and fray  
And oil the joints, and pop the pills,  
And celebrate each day.

*Moyra reckons that I am like a worn  
out Fergie tractor - my radiator leaks  
and my exhaust backfires!!  
Love and good vibrations to all Clarion  
supporters from Town Farm.*

### A Cornish damp squid?

"Start me up", roared a primed  
Launcher One,  
"From Spaceport there's work to be  
done"  
"Please don't be fickle my engine will  
tickle"  
But a mischievous piskie  
Thought "No! That's too risky,  
Newquay is no place for Top Gun"

### Town Farm local comment.

Sue Westlake is of great renown  
In both Clawton village, and Holsworthy town.  
She's been our friend for forty years  
Both each in laughter and in tears.  
Often times Sue serves the church,  
And never leaves them in the lurch  
She's often asked to arrange church flowers  
And doing so spends quite some hours.  
The Clawton "Big Breakfast" food  
When Sue's involved is always good.  
Orange juice and honey cornflakes drizzle  
Her bacon's crisp and sausages sizzle!  
And if you've no time to knead or bake,  
Then Sue's the girl to make your cake.  
No task too large, no task too small  
This true Devon girl is help to all.  
In fact, I'll have no greater pleasure  
Than introduce you to our National Treasure.



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# CLAWTON PARISH HALL

BY MARALYN BAILEY



Thank you to all who supported the Sunday Valentine Meal, we served almost 60 people at our three course meal. It was a real community afternoon.

March will bring a pre-Easter bingo, the prizes will consist of Easter goodies, wine and the cash liner prize. Our Christmas bingo evenings are popular, and we were requested to have an extra into 2023. Saturday 25th is the date chosen. Doors open at 6.30. Refreshments will be served.

Our local district Councillor Pete Watson has now moved from the area and is resigning from his duties at Torridge. He has been a great support to our hall and we thank him for all his efforts on our behalf. We wish Julie and Pete happiness in their new home.

Our project for this summer season is to fit awnings to the side of the hall to enhance the use of the seating area, should it be very bright sunlight, the position attracts the sun daylong.

During monthly coffee mornings we have a donation pot, which was requested by those unable to host to enable them to feel that they contributed to the morning. The amount raised in the last twelve months was £425 which will be sent on to Cancer Research. The chosen charity for 2023 will be our Air Ambulance. Please remember the coffee morning is the second Friday of the month, all welcome, which will follow the Whist evenings. We usually have 16 people who attend this fun evening. We are delighted that the hall is so well used by the community.

## MUM'S THE WORD BY ANN GOODSPEED

How good it is to see the rail links starting to return... Okehampton appears to be a great success and there's hope that the lines can be extended.

I do love train journeys but, in my youth, trains made me nervous at times. I blame my mother. When I lived in London, she used to visit, and always insisted on me boarding the train with her in order to chat until the train was due to leave. I was oblivious to anything she chatted about as it was impossible to hear over my palpitations. My eyes would be fixed on the Euston sign in fear of it moving...

Some time before all this, I'd taken a live-in job in Wales in a place called Nant Gwynant... The arrangement was that I travel by train to Caernarfon, where I would be met by my new boss and taken to my new home. I settled into my seat and took out my book and started the new chapter in my life..

There were several announcements during the trip, by somebody obviously who had filled their mouth with walnuts and proceeded to speak whilst holding their nose.

When we pulled in to Bangor, I knew that there wasn't much further to go and so began to prepare for the end of my journey and new beginnings.

We seemed to have stopped in the station for a lot longer than was necessary. Eventually, I called through the drop down window in the door to the uniformed man on the platform.

I asked how long we'd be before leaving for Caernarvon and he very kindly informed me that only the front two carriages were to go there and they were uncoupled and left 10 minutes ago. I was in carriage number four. He was surprised that I hadn't heard the announcement. I advised him that I had heard it but lacked the experience to decipher the vowel sounds of a chipmunk wearing a gasmask, which would have helped enormously. He acknowledged my dilemma and indicated the nearest phone box.

Without going into detail of the difficulty in rearranging my pick up I can only say how grateful I am that technology has brought about mobile phones.

# HOLSWORTHY WALK AND TALK

The Dunsland snowdrops were in fine form last month as can be seen from the photo. We have our Buckland Filleigh walk to look forward to in March. Hopefully the daffodils will be in full bloom and maybe some baby lambs to entertain us along the way.

We were pleased to present a Walk Leader Training Course in February. Volunteer walk leaders and back markers are essential to the success of Holsworthy Walk and Talk, enabling us to provide safe, risk assessed weekly walks. We thank those who attended the training and look forward to supporting them in their new roles.

As we like to promote the many benefits of walking, it was interesting to listen to a radio programme recently discussing how many famous composers and other influential people have found walking to be essential to their success. Beethoven apparently spent many hours walking whilst composing and Hippocrates, who was born around 460BC and has become known as 'the father of medicine', famously said that 'walking is the best medicine'. We may not be able to promise any symphonies or scientific breakthroughs on our walks but we can promise good company and wonderful scenery.

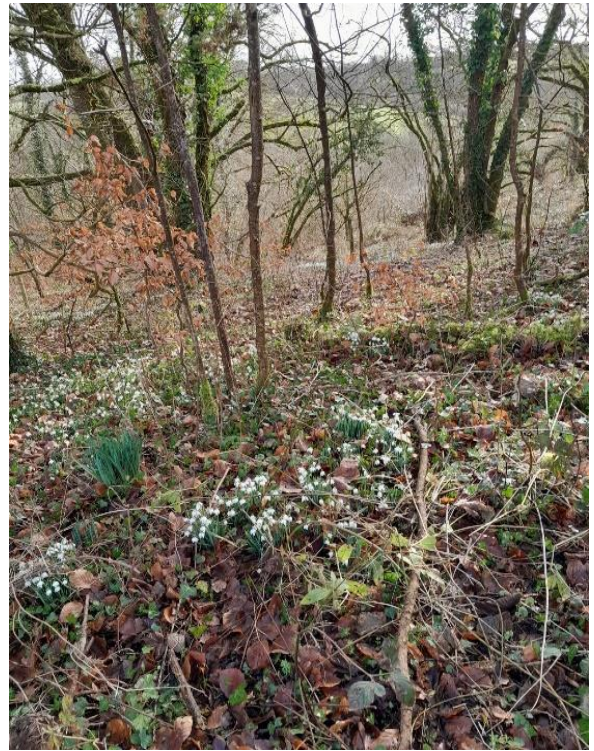
We walk on Mondays and Fridays. All walks start at 10.30 am and are **FREE**. Membership forms are available from our Volunteer Walk Leaders prior to the start of the walk.

## 'Women on Wednesday'

The next meeting is on Wednesday 1st March 2023

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.



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

Contacts:

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<https://holsworthywalkandtalk.co.uk>

Gillian Aston 07854677784



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