

CLAWTON CLARION



January 2026

I hope you all had a peaceful Christmas.

Judging by the pictures, items from contributors and a general look out of the window, its been a soggy one! However, do visit the Clawton Memories page for a contrast to our winter rain.

If your new year's resolution is to see yourself published locally, please get in touch. We'd value a single or regular item you can share with others, whether it be memories, recipes, stories or advice.

If you would like to see your item published in the February edition, please send it by midday on the 20th to clawtonclarion@gmail.com. Views expressed by our contributors are their own, and not those of the Parish Council.

Happy New Year

Alison

Event	Time	Date	Place
Women on Wednesday	7:30pm	Wednesday 7th January	Clawton Parish Hall
United Holy Communion with Rev Paul Fitzpatrick	11:00am	Sunday 11th January	St Leonard's Church
Whist	7:30pm	Wednesday 14th January	Clawton Parish Hall
Coffee Morning	10:30—12:00	Friday 16th January	Clawton Parish Hall
Railway Club	7:00pm	Friday 16th January	Clawton Parish Hall
Parish Council Meeting	7:30pm	Monday 19th January	Clawton Parish Hall
Café Church with Lorna Bowden	11:00am	Sunday 25th January	St Leonard's Church

HOLSWORTHY WALK

AND TALK

BY

GILLIAN ASTON



Following on from our Group becoming an independent organisation a few years ago, one of our new Walk Leaders, Sue, has designed and printed new Walk Leader tabards complete with our logo, photos and our individual names so that we can be easily identified. Many thanks go to Sue for her creativity and generosity and she can be seen, along with a few other Walk Leaders, modelling the new tabards in the photo.

A few weeks ago we were remarking on the low water levels at Roadford Lake. Last month we were surprised at the very high water levels in Bude Canal – and that was before the monsoons in mid December. The water fowl were certainly enjoying themselves as they were being well fed by some locals, Our photo shows the very little head room under the bridge from the Lock. The swans may need to duck to get underneath!!

Our Monday Walk in the Park Group enjoyed a Christmas ‘party’ in December courtesy of the Youth Centre and Devon Mind. We took a ‘bring and share’ lunch which turned into a veritable feast and had a very festive, sociable morning.

Despite the monsoon conditions a few of us did walk around Stanhope Park a couple of times just to show willing. We would like to say a big Thank You to the Youth Centre and Devon Mind for their hospitality throughout the year which highlights the importance of a multifaceted approach to health and well-being.

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

<https://holsworthywalkandtalk.co.uk>

Gillian Aston 07584677784



CLAWTON MEMORIES



Back by popular demand!
Many thanks to Henry and
Sue Westlake and also to
Rosemary Jones for sharing
these precious pictures.

Above: View from the
junction at the memorial,
looking up the road to-
wards Ashwater.

Below: Snow in Clawton,
taken in the 1970s.



Thank You from the Parish Council to

- ♦ Roger, Martin, Ray and Stuart for keeping the village centre tidy and grass cut, and everyone who came and helped with the village tidy-up
- ♦ Alison for another year doing a great job of compiling and editing the Clarion
- ♦ Clarion distributors Lorna, Avril, Maralyn, Alison and Miranda
- ♦ The Hall Committee and especially Maralyn
- ♦ Church Council members and especially Lorna our Churchwarden, Verger and Lay Preacher
- ♦ Parish Councillors and of course Alison Vassilaki for administering the Parish Council as Clerk
- ♦ Edwina and Nigel for again kindly donating Christmas trees to the church and the village centre
- ♦ All those who help organise and run clubs, events and activities
- ♦ Everyone who comes along and supports the events and activities

***Paul Grafton,
Chair,
Clawton Parish Council***

The Parish Council will be
meeting on

Monday 19th January 2025.

If you would like to contact
them before the meeting,
please email:

clawtonpcclerk@outlook.com

The agenda will be available to
view on the village notice board
from

12th January 2025.

PROFESSIONAL CARPENTER AND PROPERTY SERVICES

Our service

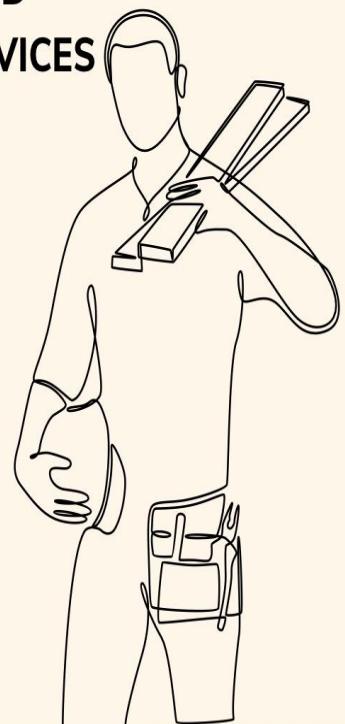
- House renovation
- Kitchen & Bathroom fitting
- Fitted/bespoke furniture
- Flooring
- Painting & Decorating
- Outdoor buildings & decking

Contact us;

Billy Unwin

07555651494

billy707@hotmail.co.uk



St. Leonard's Church

We are part of a Benefice of six churches (Clawton, Tetcott with Luffincott, Ashwater, Halwill, Beaworthy and Black Torrington). Highampton sadly has merged with Black Torrington because their church roof has become dangerous and will cost too much to replace.

This number of churches spread over a large area is a major challenge for a single vicar. We are also facing aging congregations and fewer people volunteering to fill roles on the various PCCs (Parochial Church Councils).

Our vicar (Revd. Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick) has therefore initiated a project to increase efficiency by merging some of the administrative functions. This is entirely voluntary – only ourselves, Halwill and Black Torrington have agreed to join so far, with Beaworthy keeping it under review. Each church which joins will make a decision each year as to whether they wish to continue as members.

We are already seeing benefits – the legal responsibilities are transferred to a Joint Council which takes on some of the administrative burden. This is even more important because while currently churches are charities, they have a special exemption from being overseen by the Charities Commission. This is due to change in the coming years, and the extra administrative burden will be dealt with centrally rather than by each Parish.

One significant danger this arrangement should avoid is that if a church cannot find volunteers for the essential roles such as Churchwarden and Treasurer, they are forced to close. By taking on some of the administrative and legal burden the Joint Council should make it easier to recruit volunteers, and bridge gaps between a resignation or incapacity and a replacement being found.

The treasurers of each Joint Council church are working on a project to adopt a single accounting software package (every church currently does its own thing) and create a mechanism whereby the tedious year-end reporting is done centrally rather than by each church. Each church still has its own Treasurer responsible for day-to-day book-keeping and each church's funds are kept separate within the new system. Collections, donations and funds raised by each church remain dedicated for use by that church.

Church Contacts

Rector: Revd. Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick 01409 254667 vicar-rubycountry@outlook.com

Baptism, Wedding or Funeral: rubycountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com

Churchwarden: Lorna Bowden 01409 271384

Secretary/Treasurer: Paul Grafton 01409 271456 paul@devonholidays.org

MUM'S THE WORD

When taking down the Christmas cards
I like to read again,
The greetings that were sent to us
By friends from way back when

I then admire the pictures
Depicting glistening snow.
Of carollers and skaters
And sledgers in a row

No chance of building snowmen
These days of endless rain
The angels that the children make
Just wouldn't be the same

Don't get me wrong, I loathe the snow
It fills me with a fear
Uncertainty of balance
And landing on my rear

My dream would be to have some snow
But not til Christmas Eve
To lay all day til Boxing day
Then kindly take its leave

Happy
New
Year

Ann

'Women on Wednesday'

The next meeting is on
Wednesday 7th January
2026

At 7.30 p.m.

In Clawton Village Hall.

The speaker is a
representative from

Devon Food Bank

Visitors are welcome.

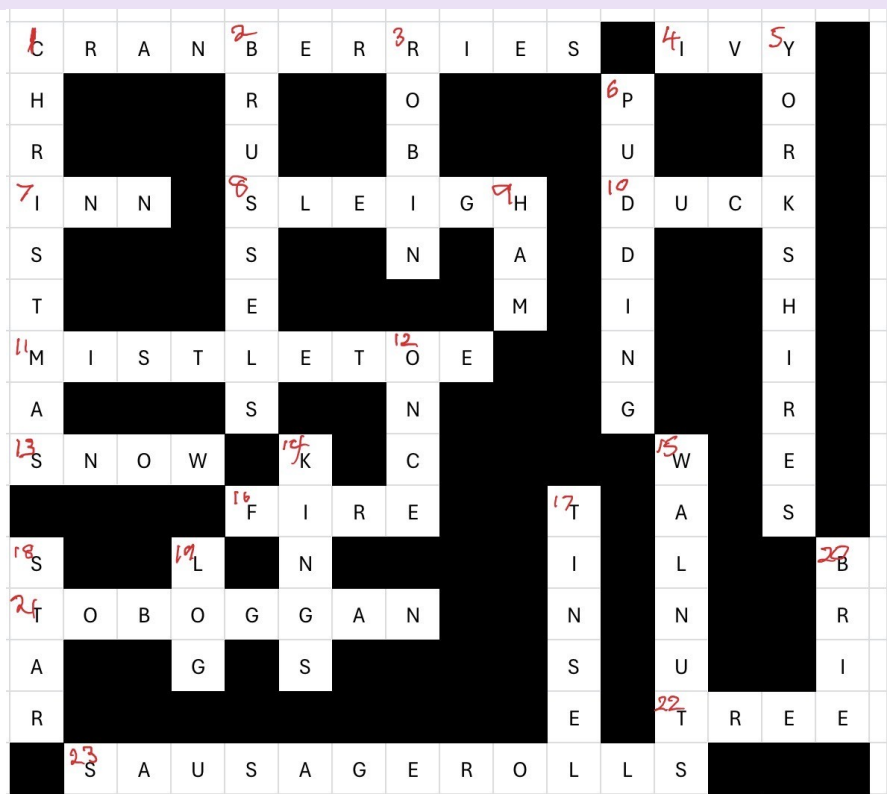
We look forward to seeing
you there.

THE HEDGE FAIRY

The hedge fairy is in hibernation for the month of January. However, she has provided the answers to last month's crossword.

Back next month,

The Hedge Fairy



CLAWTON PARISH HALL

Sunshine and showers seems to be the norm at the moment, hope we get some crisp wintery days soon.

We as a committee at the hall we wish to thank you all for your continued support to our community hub, it always feels like an extended family get together when we hold events.

Our aim for 2026 is the refurbishment of ladies' and gents' toilet areas, lots of ideas in the melting pot, I will keep you all posted!

Our next major event will be the Friendship/Valentine Sunday lunch on February 15th- 12.45 for 1p.m. We will not be opening the doors until 12.45pm in order to be organised and ready for "service" - MasterChef term!! Please do book via text or phone message on Maralyn's phone 07368 621009, as this is the best way for us to be able to keep track of numbers. We are limited to numbers, so book your seat early please.

As we say goodbye to 2025, we wish you all a very healthy and happy 2026.

Maralyn

NEWS FROM HOLSWORTHY ALES

The brewery will be
open on
Fridays
in February
2026
from
5pm to 8pm



SADIE MOYSE BSc (Hons)

CHIROPODIST / PODIATRIST

Over 10 year NHS and private experience
NAIL CARE – CORNS – CALLUS – ORTHOTICS – FOOT PAIN
FUNGAL NAILS – VERRUCA
...



ASHWATER CLINIC AND HOME
VISITS AVAILABLE

07815862436

Podsadie@gmail.com



EVELYN'S WALK

On Monday 8th December, we met in Bradworthy Square. Coincidentally, the weather was rather like last year in that on Sunday it was decidedly glum and probably kept a lot of people indoors. Thankfully, the wind and rain abated on the Monday and encouraged us to enjoy some fresh air and good company. We turned left out of The Square and followed the lane that took us past H.J.



Wicketts and the school. At the bottom of the hill we noted that the River Waldon was flowing fast. We continued up the hill through the avenue of trees and admired the views to the left. We turned right into the entrance for Berridon Farm following the footpath signs. Historically, the original route went right past the buildings but in recent years a diversion was put in place which is well-marked with a couple of lumps of granite acting as way-markers. They were probably originally gate posts. We went across a paddock which is sometimes grazed by donkeys and through a couple of self-closing galvanised gates.

No stiles! We turned right and picked our way across a couple of fields which were a bit squelchy but not bad given the amount of rain we have had in December. When we reached the lane, we turned right and then right again which brought us back to The Square. It's a nice circular route of approx. 2.3 miles and took us about 1.5 hours.



NICEIC APPROVED
ELECTRICIAN
OWEN RAVENSCROFT

- ▶ DOMESTIC
- ▶ INDUSTRIAL
- ▶ COMMERCIAL
- ▶ AGRICULTURAL
- ▶ MEICA
- ▶ NEW - BUILD



CONTACT NOW

07977500770
orbitalelectricalservices@gmail.com

This was the last walk for the year and there isn't one planned for January. I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their company over the last twelve months. I must also thank the land owners who very kindly give us permission to park on their land. This enables us to walk routes that would otherwise be awkward to access due to a lack of suitable parking. I am very grateful to the P3 volunteers who are usually associated with the Parish Councils as they check our local PROWs for accessibility and report back to DCC if there are any problems.

Wishing everyone a happy time over the festive period and good health and happiness for the New Year.

Evelyn