MUM'S THE WORD

I'm enjoying Cider with Rosie at the moment on Audio books. Not only was it written by Laurie Lee but is also narrated by him. I've never read it before and possibly wouldn't have enjoyed it so much in book form. His voice is gentle and I'm absorbed by the wonderful descriptions.

It reminded me of letters that I used to receive from a family friend some years ago. She was a neighbour's daughter who, as a teenager, used to babysit me and was therefore much older than I was. She had later married, had 2 daughters and divorced so was bringing up the girls alone. The youngest girl was at college and became friendly with a girl who's father was a widower. Cutting a very long story short the two parents met up and started 'dating' and eventually married. He had 6 children and so with Irene's 2 girls there were 10 of them to house plus Irene's mother who by then was suffering from dementia. They bought a huge Victorian house and so the stories began.

She would describe in vivid detail the day to day activities and the entangled relationships between the children.

One of her daughters became pregnant but wouldn't reveal the father. One of the sons was the one who went to hospital visits and helped buy the necessary items prior to the baby's arrival and was hugely supportive. It was some time before it was discovered that the "father" was his brother who didn't want anything to do with the relationship.

Whenever her letters arrived it was necessary to make a coffee and find a comfy quiet space and enjoy every word and then find time later in the day to re-read it. I so miss those times. Each one could have been made into a TV episode in a series. What a shame this form of communication has long gone. Emails and WhatsApp allow us to keep in touch but certainly don't have the same impact as a heartfelt letter.





Clawton Clarion

December 2026

As 2026 comes to a close, I have been thinking back to the year we have had. For us, we have been blessed with heaps of great days and evenings spent in good company. We value these times as we know only too well how life can throw the nastiest of curve balls just when its least expected. Its reassuring to live in a community that is there for others when needed.

Sentiments aside, I'm off to supervise the transportation of Christmas decorations from loft to lounge and ensure that Oreo the cat does not, once again, scale the ladder and roam the attic until late into the night. Once decs are up, all the jobs that we promised to have done in time for Christmas are complete or added to the next 'to do' list, The Old Post Office will be happy to welcome you in for a glass or a cuppa on Christmas Eve.

If you have an item/event you'd like to see published next month, please send it via email by the 20th of the month to: clawtonclarion@gmail.com. As always, views expressed by our contributors are their own, and not those of the Parish Council. Best wishes for Christmas and thank you to all our readers and contributors, Alison

Event	Time	Date	Place	Contact
Women on Wednesday Christmas Meal	6:30pm	Wednesday 2nd	Meet at Venue	Ann 01409 259972
Whist	7:30pm	Wednesday 9th	Parish Hall	Anne 01409 253679
Coffee Afternoon	1pm	Friday 11th	Parish Hall	Community Run Pop in
Railway Club	7pm	Friday 11th	Parish Hall	Community Run
Holy Communion with Revd Fitzpatrick	11am	Sunday 13th	St Leonard's Church	Lorna 01409 271384
Singing for Fun	7:30pm	Wednesday 16th	St Leonard's Church	Ann 01409 259972
Carol Service	2pm	Sunday 20th	St Leonard's Church	Lorna 01409 271384

PARISH COUNCIL

A big year-end 'Thank You' to……

* Alison for compiling and editing and arranging printing for the Clarion – and creating the more cost-effective new A5 format
* Maralyn and the Hall Committee who seem to be continuously improving the Hall and running popular events
* All who came and helped with the village tidy-up and especially Roger and Ray for keeping the village centre tidy throughout the year
* Lorna, Avril, Maralyn, Alison, Miranda and Ron who distribute the Clarion every month
* Church Council members who keep our church and graveyard in such good condition and especially Lorna our Churchwarden, Verger and Lay Preacher
* Parish Councillors who give up their time to champion the interests of residents and especially Alison who as Clerk so ably supports them by doing all the administration
* All those who organise clubs, events and activities and all who help run them
* All who come along and support the events and activities

Paul Grafton

Chair

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The toddler group had their coffee morning a couple of weeks ago, when the displays of the 150th birthday of the school and its pupils were displayed.

I have asked for a selection to be shown again when we hold our 70th birthday party next year, and on that note, we are still looking for photos of events gone by. Message please on 07368 621009 if you have any suitable. From the hall committee and trustees we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy 2027. Maralyn Bailey

EVELYN'S WALK



The next walk is on Monday 14th December. We'll be setting off from The Square in Bradworthy at 10am. Everyone is welcome to come. If you would like more information, please contact – Evelyn Sharman

Tel: 01409 259 848 Email: evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com

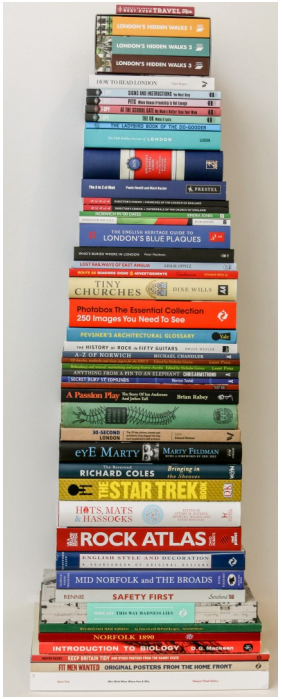
PARISH HALL



As we bid farewell to another year, our events in the hall are more limited. Coffee afternoon will be on Friday 11th will be Christmas bring and share, all are welcome. If it is your first visit, you do not have to bring food, just come along and enjoy the company.

We also have Whist Wednesday to look forward to. It is an evening with plenty of fun, banter and laughter. The cost of the evening is £5, to include a raffle ticket. Please do bring along a prize to add to the table.

The brewery evening will be back to the hall on the 12th December, so we can cater for those who find the brewery a little chilly. The hall event will run from 4pm onwards. Again if possible, bring and share nibbles, sausage rolls or the like.



We thank Edwina and Nigel for the wonderful outdoor tree. Please do try and support our local Christmas tree farm, where there is an array of trees and trimmings.

I would like to update the book swap area, so if you have a clear out please think of us. The hall is always open on a Monday afternoons between 1.30 and 4.30. Jigsaw puzzles are available too, just a swap system, no charge is made.



ST LEONARDS 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

WANTED

As previously announced, our Parish has joined with Halwill and Black Torrington to form a Joint Council, a registered charity whose aim is to make administering our parishes more efficient in the face of fewer volunteers and the need to reduce the administrative burden on our Vicar who currently runs six parishes. We've already made savings by negotiating an insurance package covering all three churches.

One of the key steps has been to merge our different accounting systems – not our funds, which remain owned by each Parish – into a new system and one set of bank accounts (Current, short-term Deposit and longer-term Savings) with the same bank. The only downside to this is that it's a 'proper' accounting package like Sage, and not all Treasurers are familiar with how this type of system works.

We are therefore looking for a volunteer with book-keeping experience who would be prepared to oversee data entry and reconciliation and produce reports (for the Charity Commission, Diocese, Joint Council and individual churches etc). These reports will already have been set up. The only significant challenge will be if another Parish chooses to join and their accounts need to be merged into the system.

The software we're using can be seen at https://www.datadevelopments.co.uk/solutions/myfundaccounting

If you might be interested or would like further details, please contact me on 07794 913757 or paul@devonholidays.org. Thank you. Paul Grafton.

THE HEDGE FAIRY

The poem below should be sung to the tune of "The Twelve Days Of Christmas"

On the first day of advent my diary said to me (mdstm)
buy Xmas cards , and write out dutifully
On the second day of advent (mdstm)
sort out secret Santa and doll up for WOW festivity
On the third day of advent (mdstm)
fill out calendar of when, where I will be
On the fourth day of advent (mdstm)
check the Clarion for extra dates that I'm not free
On the 5th day of advent (mdstm)
Lets write a list of to do's, for the family
On the sixth day of advent (mdstm)
start the decorating spree
On the seventh day of advent (mdstm)
Go pick festive twigs, holly and ivy
On the eighth day of advent (mdstm)
put home-made wreath on door for all to see
On the 9th day of advent (mdstm)
sort out raffle prize for last whist jamboree
On the 10th day of advent (mdstm)
maybe brave setting up the tree
On the 11th day of advent (mdstm)
get some baking going for village pm tea
On the 12th day of advent (mdstm)
Seek the brewery for sanity
On the 13th day of advent (mdstm)
learn to make a baklava treat
On the 14th day of advent (mdstm)
walk round park with friends in Holsworthy
On the 15th day of advent (mdstm)
finish reading homework before the book club meet
On the 16th day of advent (mdstm)
wrap up for carolling in the church for free
On the 17th day of advent (mdstm)
Get bulk of shopping and treats for me
On the 18th day of advent (mdstm)
Wrap gifts with tape awry
On the 19th day of advent (mdstm)
Last chance this year to visit brewery
On the 20th day of advent (mdstm)
Are the family visiting me?
On the 21st day of advent (mdstm)
last sane shopping day for cream and cheese
On the 22nd day of advent (mdstm)
village hall for table decorations and festivity
On the 23rd day of advent (mdstm)
A day that is barn dancing free
On the 24th day of advent (mdstm)
collapse underneath the tree

Garages For Sale

Newton St Petrock and Bradford, Holemoor

Any enquiries please contact:

Haarer & Motts Estate Agents

01803 322 557

Or email:

info@haarerandmotts.co.uk



Holsworthy Ales

The brewery bar and shop will be open every Saturday afternoon from 3.30pm until

19th December.



Staceys Christmas Tree Farm

Open every day until 24th December 9am-5.30pm.

Lots of lovely freshly cut bushy trees to choose from - up to 25ft.

Shop selling Christmas lights and Christmas tree stands. Foliage available. Pot grown trees up to 5ft available.

Father Christmas visiting 28th/29th November and 5th/6th December - Saturdays 10am - 4pm and Sundays 10.30am - 3.30pm no charge and receive a small gift.

Tel: 07780 497778 and 07530 284507 or email: staceys.trees@gmail.com. and staceyschristmastreefarm.com

We look forward to seeing you