

MUM'S THE WORD

My article this month is about observation.

On Wednesday of last week whilst in the hairdressers, I had a text message informing me that my newly prescribed glasses were ready for collection. I was amazed, as I usually get collection messages for parcels and suchlike a few minutes after returning home. I went to collect my £400 purchase and sat through the necessary adjustments which then made it possible to wear them immediately. After practising with them around Waitrose I was happy to continue to wear them home in order to get an immediate reaction from the family. At the time of writing this I am, six days later, still waiting for that reaction or at least a comment acknowledging that they have noticed a change. Nothing.

Thank goodness for the Clarion. At least the editor may read this and pass on a tip to my husband.

I will recommend Specsavers if the penny eventually drops



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Join us for a morning of coffee, cake and raffle
SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER
CLAWTON PARISH HALL
10am-12pm
Everyone welcome!



Clawton Clarion

November 2026

A bumper month ahead, just look at the number of events below! 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. **Alison**

Event	Time	Date	Place	Contact
Women on Wednesday	7:30pm	Wednesday 4th	Parish Hall	Ann 01409 259972
Remembrance Service	2:30pm	Sunday 8th	War Memorial	01409 254667
Whist	7:30pm	Wednesday 11th	Parish Hall	Anne 01409 253679
Coffee Morning	1pm	Friday 13th	Parish Hall	Community Run Pop in
Railway Club	7pm	Friday 13th	Parish Hall	Community Run
Singing for Fun	7:30pm	Wednesday 18th	Parish Hall	Ann 01409 259972
Parish Council Meeting	7:30pm	Monday 23rd	Parish Hall	Clerk 01409 259972
Wreath Making	10am	Tuesday 24th	Parish Hall	Maralyn 01409 271315
Line Dancing	7:15pm	Wednesday 25th	Parish Hall	Ann 01409 259972
Wine and Wisdom	7:30pm	Friday 27th	Parish Hall	Paul 07794 913757
Craft Fayre	9:30am	Sunday 29th	Parish Hall	Maralyn 01409 271315
Benefice Service with Revd Fitzpatrick	11am	Sunday 29th	St Leonard's Church	Lorna 01409 271384

PARISH COUNCIL

clawtonpcclerk@outlook.com

Broadband Update

Airband has gone into administration and been taken over by a company called Voneus. In a recent call with Matt Barrow from Connecting Devon and Somerset I was told that as yet it's not clear whether Voneus has taken over Airband's contract to deliver FTTP to Clawton. Voneus has just announced about 150 redundancies presumably as a result of taking over Airband and it is not clear whether these are head office staff which duplicate those already employed by Voneus or whether it includes Airband engineers in which case it would indicate they don't intend to take over the FTTP contract for Clawton.

The list of Clawton premises not due to be connected to FTTP is no longer relevant because it seems it was derived from a list of premises already served by FWA (Fixed Wireless Access) which were not close to the planned path of the main FTTP cabling.

In previous updates I've mentioned the voucher scheme. Apparently Bush Broadband (the Cornwall company which works with parish councils to install high-speed fibre) has applied for vouchers for connecting premises in Clawton and is awaiting to hear whether the application has succeeded.

So the situation at the moment is that Starlink remains the best short-term option for those for whom FWA is not suitable (as existing users will know it suffers from its inability to penetrate significant rainfall and has recently had a number of outages for technical reasons so cannot be relied upon to replace the fixed copper telephone system in an emergency). Starlink contracts are not long-term so if and when FTTP rollout is achieved in Clawton those with Starlink contracts could cancel them.

Starlink is not seen as a long-term solution because as more people join speeds are very likely to drop, although given Elon Musk's track record he is unlikely to allow that to become an obstacle. It is however possibly strategically unwise to rely on a US-based solution which can be switched off at a moment's notice or potentially disabled by bad actors such as Russia.

EVELYN'S WALK

On Monday 12th October, we met in the Parish Hall car park in Clawton having checked with Maralyn Bailey that we wouldn't be causing any inconvenience knowing how popular it is as a venue. It was lovely to see familiar faces and others that we hadn't seen for a while. We turned left down the lane and joined the footpath on the right. Take good care when you open the galvanized gate as it seems to have developed a habit of dropping suddenly when it's unlatched! It was a bit squelchy underfoot after the recent rain but hey, we need the rain after the summer we have had. The route across the grassy fields was well marked with way-markers on the gate posts. We reminded ourselves once again how much easier it is since the numerous stiles were replaced by DCC with galvanized self-closing gates. Along the way, we encountered some inquisitive rams AKA tups; and walked through a private garden with a pear tree laden with fruit. We crossed over a wooden footbridge and entered another grassy field. By following the hedge on the left and then going through a wooden gate in the far left hand corner, we entered a green lane. It was a bit uneven but manageable with care. When we reached Higher Sellick, the footpath took us through a gap in the hedge. If you blink, you'll miss it! It was a bit overgrown but a sturdy stick and a pair of secateurs soon sorted out the nettles and brambles that seem to grow prolifically. No cows but evidence of cows strategically placed right inside the gate which brought about "Watch out cow pat" being passed back down the line as we each entered the field. We followed the footpath across another couple of lush grassy fields heading towards Hole Park in the distance. When we reached the road, we turned right and then right again which brought us back to the Parish Hall. Along the way, we stopped and marvelled at the array of pumpkins for sale. It's a lovely circular route taking about 1.5 hours.

The next walk will be on Monday 9th November. We will be setting off from Higher Larkworthy Farm near Ashwater, EX21 5DE at 10am with kind permission of the Kirk family. Please car share if possible. You are welcome to contact me if you need any information.

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



THE HEDGE FAIRY

Just after one, there was no more light
My bedroom suffused in dark
I could hear the owls at night
and the occasional bark.

Two chaps arrived the other day
A cherry-picker on the van
They trimmed the hedge around the lamp
a computer tablet also in hand

That night the light did not go out
It did not, even in kindness, dim.
The blokes must have reprogrammed it
the night has gone from Yang to Yin

I am not a happy bunny
I have had four years of night time
peace
Why change it now, it is not funny
Why should night darkness cease?

Before the light, I heard the owls
The cars drove slower too
Now, no way to see auroras
Bright light displays the view



Hedge Fairy has vented her frustration through poetry, but if there are any other residents of Clawton finding the new street lighting a hindrance, rather than a help, please feel free to email or phone the clerk at

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clawtonpcclerk@outlook.com

01409 259972

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If Voneus does take up Airband's FTTP contract then that is the long-term solution but it seems it is not possible to cancel the contract and hand it to another supplier such as Bush Broadband due to rules surrounding government funding. If Voneus does not want to continue the Airband contract for Clawton, hopefully Bush Broadband's application for voucher funds will be approved and will become our long-term solution. Otherwise at some stage the contract will presumably be re-tendered and the successful applicant will replace Airband.

Paul Grafton

VILLAGE NEWS

News from Western Side

Taking Care of Clawton's Hedgehogs

This year our hedgehogs are breeding late due to the recent heatwaves. We have seen many young abandoned while parents go further afield for food and get themselves into trouble, like the four I found (pic).

Hedgehogs should not be seen during the day, so if spotted in daytime please put them in a box and take them to a vet or rescue centre. They may be too underweight to survive the winter (less than 600g). These young ones I found were (95-100g). Also, don't forget to check garden waste piles, bonfires etc before burning and walk and sweep an area before strimming. These prickly pals are so good for our gardens, we need to look after them.



Holsworthy Ales

The brewery bar and shop will be open every Saturday afternoon from 3.30pm until 19th December.

Women On Wednesday

Will next meet on 4th November at 7:30pm

For Wet Felting with

Kate Davey

New members welcome



Wine & Wisdom

Friday 27th November

Questionmaster Revd. Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick

7.30pm start, Clawton Parish Hall

Book your team's table now –

call or text Paul on 07794 913757

There is now a limit on the numbers we can accept to avoid overcrowding the hall so

booking is essential!

As a committee, we endeavour to make the monies raised work to the best outcome, to this end we share the daily cleaning as a rota, unpaid. Without the teams we would not be able to do many of the jobs, as cleaners could cost £200 or more a month.

Kerry and Maralyn will be hosting a Christmas wreath making session on Tuesday 24th, between 10 and 3pm. We will supply soup and sweets, at £10 per person. There are still places available, we will follow up on Tuesday December 22nd to make table decorations, oasis will be available to purchase along with free bring and share greenery. All profits will go on a 50/50 basis to our local flower club in Holsworthy and Crisis at Christmas. Please contact Maralyn if you would like to book a place for either event.

An important change in the coffee mornings, it will now be held on the second Friday as before but between 1pm and 3pm, so more of an afternoon tea!! Same format, just a different time to accommodate the toddler group and others who have not been able to attend the Thursday mornings.

Don't forget poppies will be available at any village event or at our church services, the RBL do not allow door to door collections

Lastly, on a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who attended John's funeral, and let you all know the donations for Children's Hospice SW amounted to just over £710. Thank you all x

WILLIAM HENRY
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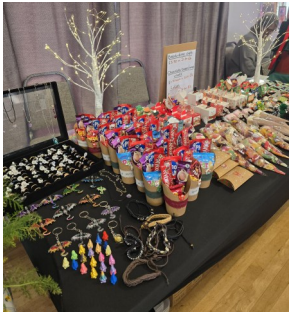
Get in Touch!

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PARISH HALL

Maralyn Bailey

Clocks have changed - the darkness is taking over, Christmas is looming and we have just completed another Craft Fayre. The hall was full of sellers, from Avon cosmetics, to house signs, pottery, vegetables and



winter bedding plants, macrame made by two talented young ladies from our village, and the various crafters who support our monthly events. We even sold out of bacon and sausage baps! Our next craft fayre is on Sunday 29th November 9.30 to 12 noon. If you have not yet attended please do, its another great opportunity to meet friends.

Our recently refurbished toilets are looking great, thanks to Graham and Jeff. Another step along the road towards our 70th anniversary in 2027. We require quotes for repainting the exterior of the hall and replacing the fascia board with plastic, please see one of the committee if you are able to furnish us with a quote. We have several major jobs that will require attention in the next few months. It would be good if we could supply work for local people. We are now equipped to handle food for gluten free people. The container has been reorganised to house all the needs for the events put on, thanks to a new study shelving unit that has been fixed into the container. All we would ask everyone is that if you use the equipment from the container that it is put back in the correct place, it makes things easier for everyone.

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

Please see events on the front page for services and note that there will not be a café church this month.



Remembrance Sunday

8th November

at 2:30pm.

Meet at the war memorial for the laying of the wreath, followed by a short service in the church with Revd. Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick.

Martin Redwood Memorial Tractor Run



50 tractors plus a Series 1 Landrover and a quad bike carrying drivers and 31 passengers began with bacon baps and tea or coffee before driving a route taking them out over Affaland Moor to Bridgerule, Titson, Week St. Mary and back to Clawton hall via Fernhill and Sellick. Waiting for their return was a lunch menu of soup and rolls, pasties, sausage baps and a no-alcohol bar.

The event made an astonishing £1907.83, to be divided between the Alzheimer's Society and Clawton churchyard giving each £953.92. That's far more than we thought possible and is down to the huge support from the drivers and passengers as well as the spectators and those who gave generously to the raffle - but mainly to the army of people who made the day possible including Steve Johnson who allowed us to use his field, the marshals, those who donated cakes, soup, rolls and raffle prizes, those who cooked and served the food and those who administered the entries and took the entrance fees. A number of very generous cash donations were also received.

Adrian Barriball was key in telling us how to run such an event and (with Anthony) devising and checking the route but unfortunately was struck down by a flu-like illness on the day and was unable to join us and lead the run as planned, so Anthony had to stand in at the last minute.

Very many thanks to everyone who supported the event and who generously gave their time and money. What an amazing tribute to Martin.



**Martin Redwood
Memorial
Tractor Run
Sunday 4th October
2026**

