

THE HEDGE FAIRY

Garden preparations/Ramblings

Looking forward to the clocks going forwards at the end of the month. I am fed up with dark mornings turning into overcast and frequently rainy days.

Time to try and heave the garden out of its sodden clay state and start the spring by booking the mower in for a service. On that note, I need to put new hinges on my mower shed door.

I love ordering lots of flower and vegetable seeds. I like flowers that self-seed like forget-me-nots and pot marigolds, and old fashioned plants like honesty - my friend made a beautiful chandelier from dried honesty seed heads intertwined with a string of LED lights.

The vegetable seeds I like to get are often of items not so frequently found in supermarkets - golden beetroot, beef tomatoes, swiss chard, sorrel, large leaf spinach, golden purslane, and cut-and-come-again mixed lettuce (baby leaf), but I will also get some runner beans they are just soooo good just picked and freshly cooked.

I am also considering picking out a cherry tree which hopefully will be happy and become fruitful in a couple of years - at which point I will probably be spotted jumping up and down in my garden shouting abuse at the local bird population.

Should I get some lime, will it really stop the clay from being quite so claggy? I will need to get some fresh compost too. Possibly dig a pond - I may not even need a liner A little water feature to trickle gently. Shall I give up having a traditional grass lawn . . Chamomile lawns were a historic alternative, their daisy like flowers would look nice mixing in with the current patches of speedwell, bugle, and the occasional primula.

I have a lot of junk to clear out as well - time to do some skip research.



Clawton Clarion

Welcome to the our compact, new look

March 2026

Clarion. We hope this smaller in stature edition is still perfectly accessible to you all. If you would prefer to have this delivered by email, please drop me a line. Similarly, if you have an item or event you'd like to see published in the next edition, please send by email by the 20th of the month, to: clawtonclarion@gmail.com.

Views expressed by our contributors are their own, and not those of the Parish Council. Best wishes, Alison

Event	Time	Date	Place
Women on Wednesday	7:30pm	Wednesday 4th March	Clawton Parish Hall
United Service with Reverend Fitzpatrick	11:00am	Sunday 8th March	St Leonard's Church
Whist	7:30pm	Wednesday 11th March	Clawton Parish Hall
Coffee Morning	10:30— 12:00	Friday 13th March	Clawton Parish Hall
Railway Club	7:00pm	Friday 13th March	Clawton Parish Hall
Café Church with Lorna Bowden	11:00am	Sunday 22nd March	St Leonard's Church
Plant and Food Fayre	9:30-12	Sunday 29th March	Clawton Parish Hall
Parish Council Meeting	7:30pm	Monday 30th March	Clawton Parish Hall

BROADBAND

Paul Grafton

Sir Geoffrey Cox recently convened a meeting about the situation regarding broadband rollout in Torridge and Tavistock. The presentations included:

Building Digital UK (BDUK): It operates a gigabit voucher scheme which ends in March 2028. Communities can get together to encourage residents to apply for vouchers which can then be pooled and a supplier can be contracted. Applications will be closed in August 2026.

Connecting Devon and Somerset: They explained the distinction between superfast (up to 30 Mb per second) and Project Gigabit which aims for 2 Gb per second. They also clarified that the type of connection currently offered by Airband at present is FWA (Fixed Wireless Access). This technology has the capability of going to 400 Mb per second or even 1 gigabit per second but the current equipment being used is not able to achieve this.

Airband: Unable to get the investment they required in order to continue with the original contract, they accepted that as a result a number of communities have been left with incomplete installations. They emphasised that other providers were in a similar situation and some had been made bankrupt.

Bush Broadband: Bush Broadband support communities who create a group and apply for funding to supplement the vouchers they have been able to obtain. Since most communities have good relationships with their farming community, it may be possible to negotiate a trench through farm fields to reach the community without undue cost. Bush will then wire and install. They termed this "Parish Fibre".

Actions: I asked Airband about the Clawton project and was assured that it is still planned to go ahead. I requested the planned dates and list of premises included and not included. Separately, Sir Geoffrey Cox undertook to circulate to all Parish Councils a list of all premises within his constituency which do not have superfast broadband and are not currently listed amongst those for which there is a plan for connection. Once we receive this information we will publish it and look at ways it might be possible to cover premises not included in any current plan.

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

Our prayers and thoughts are with Bill and the family on the passing of Brenda Chantler, who was a resident of this parish and will be greatly missed.


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CHURCH EVENTS

Advance notice of two events :

Big Breakfast on
Saturday 18th April

Wine & Wisdom on
Friday 27th November



MUM'S THE WORD

Ann Goodspeed

I feel so lucky to have been born when I was. Five years after the war ended and I've enjoyed some of the best times.

The 50's, when respect was uppermost and we played out in the street, on bomb sites and half built new housing estates. It was great being a child. Summers seemed endless and Christmas was magical.

The 60's, when fashion and music belonged to the young. In Liverpool especially, music was vital and we smugly owned a lot of it as the 'mersey beat'. Jobs were easy to come by and foreign holidays became affordable.

The 70's, when I had my children and the NHS was so much more accessible and maternity services second to none. We were even given free gifts in hospital and nappies and bottles were all supplied. You stayed in hospital for 10 days and they put the babies in the nursery overnight so you could recover!

The 80's, when the yuppies came on the scene. Salaries were good and mortgages easier. Filofax was an essential to carry all the info that we now have in our phones. Perms became trendy; I had one and loved it until it was windy.

All the things that have been invented and created in my lifetime are amazing. Mobile phones are the best and worst and I'm glad I was at an age where I could at least get to grips with the basic use. The one thing that a Filofax couldn't do, was take photos, I now have millions. Many are unnecessary but an awful lot are precious.

Maybe I'm looking at things through rose tinted glasses, but I still feel very lucky.



PARISH HALL

Maralyn Bailey

March - already!

Our community coffee mornings have become very popular with the new way of running them, two people host and everyone agrees to bring along a plate of refreshments as a bring and share system.

The committee and our wonderful helpers, hosted the Friendship lunch on Sunday 15th February. We served over 60 people, with a three course meal, the afternoon proved to be a great success. I, as chair, thank everyone for their support, both diners and helpers.

Our first Sunday morning plant and food sale is booked for 29th, there may be a couple of crafters there too, who will have special items aimed at Easter. Do come along and have a coffee, and maybe a bacon or sausage bap. 9,30 to 12 noon. Sunday is for relaxing.

Plans are afoot for 2027, as we then will be celebrating 70 years since the official opening of the hall. We are proud how the hall is so well used, some weeks there is something happening on a daily basis.

The CCTV is due to be installed, a sad but necessary action with the hall being vulnerable to theft etc.

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

PARISH COUNCIL

Paul Grafton

Parish Council Meeting 19th January

Coffee Morning: The new format for the monthly coffee morning has proved successful in limiting costs incurred by contributors. The possibility was noted of funding from the Growing Communities Fund and the National Lottery both of which cover warm spaces.

Planning: 1/0743/2025/FUL Little Blagdon - Change of use of garage/gym to holiday let – Granted by TDC

1/1015/2025/FUL Land At Grid Reference 32947 097401 - Proposed Silage Pit Horslett Farm – Parish Council does not have any comment or objection.

Snow Plan: An updated Snow Plan for the village including responsibilities of the Snow Warden and Assistant Snow Warden was adopted and is now available on the website.

Grit/Salt Bins: The bin located by the village hall is not being used and a request will be put to Highways to move the bin to the blind corner at the bottom of the hill.

Road Closure: South West Water closed the road from the memorial junction toward Ashwater. The Parish Council had no notice of the closure suggesting emergency works.

Parish Precept: The Parish Council considered the budget for 2026/2027 which no longer covers the anticipated expenditure including clerks pay, hire of hall for meetings, insurance, Clarion printing and grants for hall and churchyard. A rise equivalent to £3.78 per annum for a Band D property was unanimously agreed.

Clarion: This will now be funded by the Parish Council (for the past 9 or so years it has been printed free by Mystery Shoppers Ltd as part of their community contribution). A review is taking place on ways to minimise the cost and possibly to increase advertising rates.

Clawton Clarion Editor: The role of editing the Clarion is currently carried out by Alison, having undertaken the job some time before being appointed Parish Clerk.

The Editor has historically been a voluntary role but as it has become increasingly difficult to find new volunteers, concerns for the future should the current Editor give up the role were considered. It was agreed to incorporate this into the role of Clerk.

Devon County Council: Councillor Lynne Rowsell outlined some of the responsibilities she holds and tasks/projects she is involved with in the local area. These included: potholes and road repairs, local care home and funding from the locality budget.

Parking near a road junction: It was noted that parking within 10 metres (32 ft) of a road junction is contrary to Rule 243 of the Highway Code and it was agreed that a letter be sent to residents where such parking is felt to be dangerous.

Next Meeting: This will be held on Monday 30th March 2026.



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@williamhenrybuildingandpropertyservices

Wanted

CLARION DISTRIBUTOR
IN LEWORTHY

We currently don't have a volunteer distributor in Leworthy – which means we need to spend a significant amount each year on postage and envelopes.

Is there anyone who could take on the role of Clarion distributor for Leworthy?

If so please email editor Alison on clawtonclarion@gmail.com.