

# CLAWTON CLARION



## December 2025

Welcome to the Christmas edition. According to the weather notification on my phone, we are in for a 'wintry mix' today. This sounds like a festive drink or dessert rather than the rain, sleet and hail that is forecast.

If you need an excuse to escape any rough weather or shopping on Christmas Eve, you are welcome once again to pop in and join us at The Old Post Office anytime between 11am and 3pm for a glass or cuppa of Christmas cheer.

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email or have a contribution for the next edition, please get in touch by midday on the 20th of the month, to [clawtonclarion@gmail.com](mailto:clawtonclarion@gmail.com) Views expressed by our contributors are their own, and not those of the Parish Council.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful Christmas. *Alison*

Event	Time	Date	Place
Women on Wednesday	6:00pm	Wednesday 3rd December	The Rydon Inn
Whist	7:30pm	Wednesday 10th December	Clawton Parish Hall
Wreath Making Workshop	9:30 – 11:30am	Thursday 11th December	Clawton Parish Hall
Coffee Morning	10:30 – 12:00	Friday 12th December	Clawton Parish Hall
Railway Club	7:00pm	Friday 12th December	Clawton Parish Hall
Clawton Primary School Carol Service	<del>11:00am</del> 1 pm	Thursday 18th December	St Leonard's Church
United Holy Communion Rev. Dr Paul Fitzpatrick	11:00am	Sunday 14th December	St Leonard's Church
Carol Service	2:00pm	Sunday 21st December	St Leonard's Church

## HOLSWORTHY WALK AND TALK

We began last month's schedule of walks at Torrington Commons with a total of 38 walkers from both Level 2 and Level 3 setting off together. The walk begins by heading down through woodland following an old Roman road and then onto Common land from which can be seen Torrington Station. We paused here for a photo opportunity before Level 2 diverged onto the Tarka Trail for a circular route back to the starting point with Level 3 heading off to follow the route of the Rolle Canal, before meeting the Tarka Trail for their return. Water levels in the River Torridge on that day were not very high but if we had gone the following week following heavy rain the Weir would have been quite spectacular to see and to hear as the roaring waters can be heard quite a way before reaching the bridge by the Weir.



The following week took Level 2 walkers to Roadford Lake. Despite checking the route a few days prior to the walk we arrived to find that forestry work was in progress and our usual route was fenced off. Fortunately there are several paths by the lake, the first of which took us to the Diamond Jubilee Sundial. The sculpture was fabricated from a concept by the Sculptor Ben Jones and represents the six decades of HM Queen Elizabeth II's reign, surrounded by granite time pieces taken from the site of the reservoir prior to it being flooded.

If you would like to join us on any of our walks to visit local places, meet new people and enjoy the benefits of walking our current programme of walks is available. Walks start at 10.30 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.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas.

*Gillian*

Contacts:

[holsworthywalkandtalk@gmail.com](mailto:holsworthywalkandtalk@gmail.com)

<https://holsworthywalkandtalk.co.uk>

Gillian Aston 07584677784



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# CHURCH NOTICES

## 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

We send our deepest sympathy and Prayers to Sally & Steve Prouse on the death of Sally's Mum Mrs Branton who lived and worked in this Parish for many years. She will be missed.

## Services at St Leonards:

14/12/2025	Sun	1100	United Holy Communion	Revd Paul
18/12/2025	Thur	1300	Clawton School Carol Service	
21/12/2025	Sun	1400	Carol Service <i>NOTE CHANGE</i>	Lorna Bowden

- There will be no Service on the 28th



## Christmas Carols

*With mulled wine and mince pies  
and the Black Torrington Handbells*

**St. Leonard's Church**

**Sunday 21st December at 2pm**



# CLAWTON PARISH HALL

As another festive season approaches it gives us all a chance to be thankful for the special community we have in the village and beyond.

Our community coffee morning will be held on Friday 12th 10.30 to 12 noon.

We have a few spaces left for the wreath/table decoration session on Thursday 10th December.

Please message via Facebook or on my mobile 07368 621009

Soup and sweet will be offered for a charge of £8 with a bring and share foliage pool.

Wreath rings, baubles and other embellishments will be on sale too.

There are no professionals involved, this is just for enthusiastic flower arrangers!

The committee wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas & a healthy happy 2026.

*Maralyn*



## THE LONGHOUSE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Enjoy the cosy atmosphere at The Longhouse, browse beautiful stalls, and soak up the joy of the season, all while helping raise vital funds for North Devon Hospice's compassionate care.


**SUN 7 DEC 12-4PM**

The Longhouse, Dobles Ln,  
Holsworthy EX22 6GH

£3 per person suggested donation on entry, Under 12's free. Every pound raised helps fund the vital end-of-life care offered by North Devon Hospice.



northdevonhospice.org.uk Registered charity no 286554



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# MUM'S THE WORD

Many years ago when I was a teenager, I used to go to Silver Blades Ice rink in Liverpool every Saturday morning with my friend June. (She was the one I was with when we tried making a cigarette with the dregs from dog ends and the lick bit of an envelope)

We both had our own white boots as we refused to wear the hideous purple and blue or brown with red laces offerings from the hire shop.

One particular Saturday we unwrapped our boots in the changing room only to find that I had 2 left boots and June had 2 rights. Mine of course had never been out of the bag since the week before but June had meticulously cleaned and whitened 'hers'. She was furious when we had to swap back the odd ones and skate around in mismatched boots. The more cross she was the funnier I found it. I think I even mastered skating backwards that day just so that I could see her sulking.



Ann

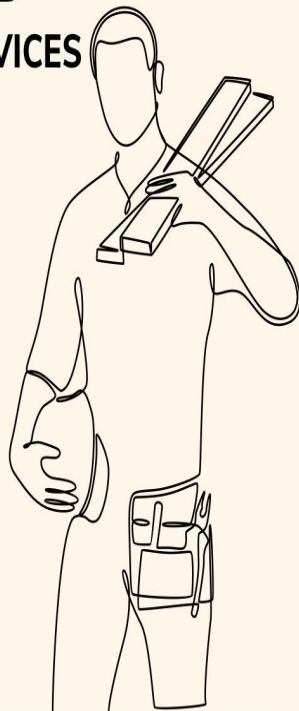
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Billy Unwin  
07555651494  
billy707@hotmail.co.uk



## 'Women on Wednesday'

No meeting this month

as we will be enjoying a festive meal.

Member don't forget to meet at The Rydon  
Inn at 6pm on 3rd December.

We look forward to seeing you there.



# EVELYN'S WALK



On Monday 10th November, we met at Higher Larkworthy Farm with kind permission of the Kirk family. This is very much a working farm and so we were especially grateful for their kind hospitality whilst normal farming activities carried on. I don't think anybody anticipated the sudden downpour between leaving home and arriving at the farm. We were all very grateful for the shelter of a barn whilst seriously contemplating whether we actually wanted to get a soaking!! Nobody changed their mind and so we set off along the concrete drive towards the main A388 which is where the footpath officially starts. We beared left part way along the drive through Lower Larkworthy Farm. The footpath took us past a couple of very cute ponies tucking into a hay net and then we cooed over what are known as "the cutest sheep in the world". The Valais Blacknose ewes were in a field on one side and the rams on the other. Their horns were amazing! The footpath took us across a couple of lush green fields and then a wooden footbridge over the stream. We then had a bit of a climb the other side but a horse and a pony in an adjacent field gave us a reason to take a break. When we reached the lane at Henford, we turned left and went down the hill. The photo was taken on the bridge at the bottom. Of course we then had the climb up the other side!! At the top of the hill, we ventured alongside Kit Hill House which is being renovated. It has a new roof and fantastic chimneys. How lovely that the property is being brought back to life by a new owner. We followed the privately owned track back towards Higher Larkworthy Farm enjoying the far reaching views along the way. It's a lovely walk of approx. two miles and I omitted to say that the sky cleared and the rain stopped soon after setting off which made it all the more enjoyable. The next walk will be on Monday 8th December. We will set off from The Square in Bradworthy at 10am. You are very welcome to contact me for more information.

Evelyn Sharman Tel: 01409 259 848 Email: [evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com](mailto:evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com)

Evelyn

## Staceys Christmas Tree Farm

Is happy to announce

Holsworthy Town Band will be visiting us 7th December from 11am, weather permitting, playing all your favourite festive tunes while you pick your perfect Christmas tree.

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

Father Christmas here weekend 6th/7th December.

Saturdays 10.30pm - 4pm Sundays 10.30am-3.30pm.

Free of charge and receive a small gift.

Cards and cash accepted. We look forward to seeing you all.

Tel: 07780497778 or 07824324408

# PARISH COUNCIL

## GRIT BAGS

These are now placed on the hills which aren't covered by the County Council gritting trucks. Please don't move them – if you need some for a specific reason give Paul Grafton a call (07794 913757) as I have a small stock.

If you do need to use some due to icy conditions, be aware that a small amount is surprisingly effective - use about one tablespoon of grit (or a handful) per square meter, spread evenly.

A 20kg bag is enough for around 400 square meters of pavement. Apply sparingly, as excess grit doesn't speed up melting and needs to be mixed with moisture to be effective.

On behalf of Clawton Parish Council, we wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

Paul



### Holsworthy Ales

The brewery is open  
on Saturdays  
6th, 13th and 20th  
December  
3.30-6.30pm  
for Christmas beer,  
mince pies, chat  
and cheer!



**Clawton Parish Hall**  
**Community Christmas Event**

*Make your own  
Door Wreath & Table Decoration*

**Thursday 11th December**  
**9.30 - 11.30**  
*Followed by home made soup and dessert*  
**£8 per person**

Oasis Rings, Oasis, Trays, Candles, Baubles and Trims  
Available to purchase on the day

*You are welcome to bring your own greenery,  
trims and ribbons should you wish*

**Festive Raffle**

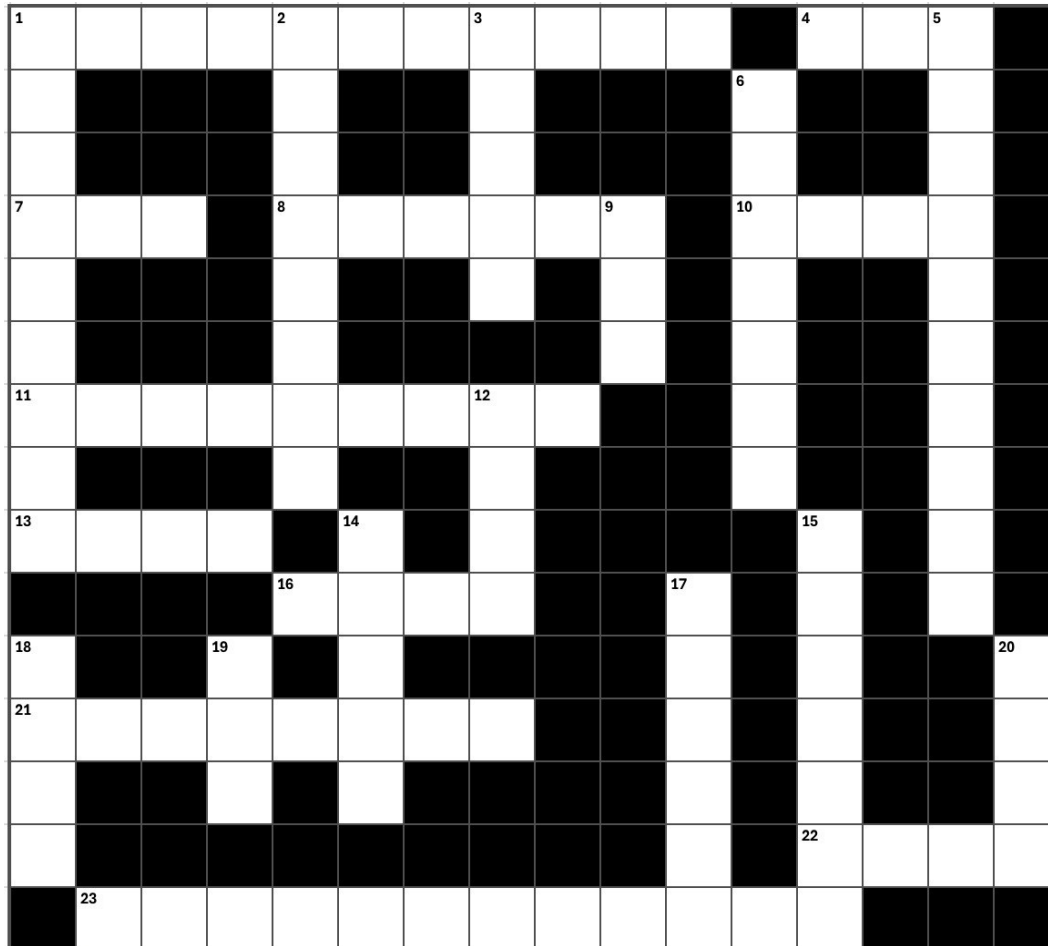
**Limited Numbers**  
Please text Maralyn 07368621009 to book a place

*Enjoy a relaxed morning with friends and neighbours*

**Proceeds to E.L.F.  
Exeter Leukaemia Fund**

# THE HEDGE FAIRY

The Hedge Fairy advises you all to stay indoors, keep cosy and just have some fun with the crossword xx



Across	Clue	Down	Clue
1	This fruit makes a saucy fest festive sauce	1	what this crossword is supposed to be all about
4	Climbs walls and trees, Ingredient for a christmas wreath	2	like marmite - love them or loathe them - apparently it is a genetic thing
7	another name for a hostelry e.g. where Jesus was born	3	friendly festive bird, often wearing ist best waistcoat for winter
8	Santa's porsche	5	definitely not dependant on beef being on the plate
10	To bob down when something is thrown at your head, or an alternative christmas roast	6	if there is any room left near the end of the festive feast
11	Nothin to do with the wiggly bits at the end of your feet, or a thin fog, but an excuse for a peck on your cheek	9	you could describe cracker mottoes as this, or a cold cut prepared for boxing day
13	on most christmas card scenes but in reality, rare on christmas day	12	" - - - " in Royal Davids' City
16	if you have a chimney, you can cosy up near this	14	Three of these baring gifts
21	transport your shopping home or travel downhill in snowy weather	15	something to munch with your glass of port
22	one of these comes indoor, and gets dressed up for christmas	17	Nothing to do with metal cans, just fizzy stuff you dangle on tree or to wear as a scarf /hat if out for a post meal walk
23	favourite snack to cook to keep everyone else out of the kitchen so that you can have a peaceful G&T ( read favourite tippie)	18	Top of the tree to you
		19	This can be made of chocolate or wood
		20	a way of using up left-over cranberry sauce, or goes well with crackers

Solution will be revealed in the next edition.