

CLAWTON

CLARION

May 2025

Welcome to the May edition. I'll keep this short in order to squeeze in the long list of events we have here in Clawton this month. Maralyn's article has details of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. I will be wearing my Press hat at the Parish Meeting and would love to meet as many of you as possible. If you can't make either of these, then I'll be back in my pinny for the coffee morning. With refreshments at all the aforementioned events, there's no such thing as too much cake!

Alison

Event	Time	Date	Place
VE Day Afternoon Tea	3:30pm	Monday 5th May	Clawton Parish Hall
Women on Wednesday	7:30pm	Wednesday 7th May	Clawton Parish Hall
Coffee Morning	10:30—12:00	Friday 9th May	Clawton Parish Hall
Railway Club	7:00pm	Friday 9th May	Clawton Parish Hall
United Holy Communion with Rev Paul Fitzpatrick	11:00am	Sunday 11th May	St Leonard's Church
Whist	7:30pm	Wednesday 14th May	Clawton Parish Hall
Meet the Parish Council	7:00pm	Monday 19th May	Clawton Parish Hall
Parish Council AGM	8:00pm	Monday 19th May	Clawton Parish Hall
Clawton Ladies' Skittle Team Open Evening	8:00pm	Thursday 22nd May	Clawton Parish Hall
Craft/Plant Fair	10:00 - 1:00pm	Sunday 25th May	Clawton Parish Hall
Café Church with Lorna Bowden	11:00am	Sunday 25th May	St Leonard's Church

HOLSWORTHY WALK AND TALK

BY GILLIAN ASTON

A glorious sunny morning accompanied 28 of us on our 20th anniversary walk. The walk which took us over Holsworthy Viaduct, along the Cycle Way and out to the Rydon Inn before returning to Holsworthy was led by Michael Heryet who runs Bude Walk and Talk. Back in the early 2000s Michael and David Arney were approached by Jim White from South West Forest, then based at Cookworthy Forest, who mentioned that South West Forest had funds available for the setting up of walking groups in the area. Michael and David were keen to set up such groups and Bude Walk and Talk and Holsworthy Walk and Talk came into being. Although some of the original walkers are no longer with us, two people who joined Michael and David on that first walk on the 15th April 2005 were present. Both members, Clive and Marion, soon became walk leaders and both are still a very important part of Holsworthy Walk and Talk today.



Two more walkers have now completed their walk leader training and will be leading and back marking when we start our new programme in June. Congratulations to John and Barbara.

Future walks will be taking us to Torrington Commons, Sheepwash and Roadford Lake, a variety of locations which only adds to the interest. If you would like to join us at any time 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



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ST LEONARDS CHURCH

There has been a lot of sadness within our Parish with the loss of four of our past residents: Mrs Rachael Britton, Mrs Pauline Corthine, Mrs Joy Allin and Mr John Moore, all of a good age.

Our Prayers go out to all the families. We know that they will all be missed.

Church Contacts

Rector: Revd. Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick 01409 254 667 vicar-rubycountry@outlook.com

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

Joint Churchwardens: Irene Ellis – 01409 254572, Lorna Bowden – 01409 271384

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



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If you would like to see your items published in the next edition, please send them in by midday on the 20th to:

clawtonclarion@gmail.com.

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Come meet your Parish Council

If you're relatively new to the village – since Covid certainly and maybe before – you might find it helpful to meet your Parish Council representatives and we would certainly be interested to meet you.

We'll provide light refreshments.

Anyone and everyone else is of course also invited – it's an opportunity to meet people you may not know even if you already know your Parish Councillors.

The Hall will be open at 7pm on Monday 19th May and will continue until the Annual General

Meeting of the Parish Council starts at 8pm which will be followed at 8.30pm by a normal council meeting.

Everyone is welcome to stay for either or both meetings.

We look forward to seeing you.

Paul

Paul Grafton (Chair)



Wishing Sue & Henry Westlake
Happy Golden wedding anniversary..
celebrating 50 years of marriage on 3rd
May.

All our love Anita, Bradley, Shaun
and Nathan



CLAWTON PARISH HALL

May is just around the corner as I compile the hall's piece for the month.

On Monday 5th May the hall will be hosting an afternoon tea to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

In these troubled times it is good to reflect on the six years our forefathers bore, in which families were split apart, not knowing if they would ever see one another again.

The Parish Council has given the hall committee an allowance to provide the tea for all Clawton folks, therefore everyone is welcome. We will open the doors at 3.30pm. If you are unable to attend due to transport problems, do contact me and we will arrange a lift to and from the hall. If you have any mementos of the war years, please let us have them for a display table. We have been collecting all kinds of items of interest covering those years, including recipes, which we hope to make into a booklet for those interested in the frugal ways that were found to produce an interesting take on a food when rationing was so restricting.

Thanks to Iain & Graham, two of our Parish councillors who have been cleaning the War Memorial, ready for the occasion and to the residents of Memorial Cottages for providing amenities and keeping the memorial visible throughout the year. Although originally a tribute to the fallen of the First World War, those called to service during the years 1939-45 are also remembered on the memorial. I will place small floral tributes to those in our churchyard who gave their lives in service. I will also remember Gordon Cursons, who always maintained that the war & his war did not cease until VJ day, he had been so cruelly treated by the Japanese while being held prisoner.

We will remember them.

Maralyn

'Women on Wednesday'

The next meeting is on
Wednesday 7th May 2025

at 7:30 p.m

In Clawton Village Hall

**This will be a presentation by the
Pearl Exchange from Bude.**

Visitors welcome.

**We look forward to seeing you
there.**



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THE HEDGE FAIRY

Some of you may be wondering why “The Hedge Fairy”

I thought that I may elaborate a bit on that subject. When I was younger, I could not associate myself with the traditional flower fairies, never pretty enough.

Later in life I used to pull my vehicle over and forage in hedges and it just felt like home to me, and that was when the idea of being a “Hedge Fairy” came to me - A hedge fairy did not need to be beautiful - nobody who has been through a hedge backwards is expected to look well groomed. I like hedges, I find hedges very interesting, they provide shelter for wild animals, nesting sites for birds and bees, they are locations for foragers to find berries and leaves, they can help farmers organise their livestock and provide some shade in summer. Roadside hedges can collect drifting rubbish and delineate borders. They tell the story of the seasons, and hopefully, “Hedge Fairy” articles will be a hodge podge, a random selection of bits that have recently drifted through my attention span.

Hedge Fairy

THE BRIDGE MILL AT BRIDGERULE

SUNDAY 11TH MAY • 2025 • 11AM - 4PM



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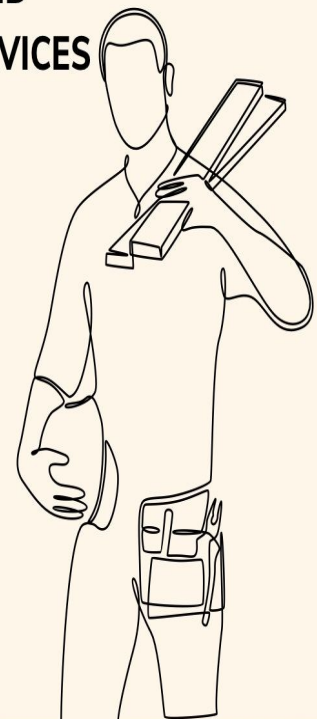
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MUM'S THE WORD

The recent news of WH Smiths reminded me of when I had a temporary job there some years ago. I was to cover for a lady who was going into hospital for an operation. I was quite excited at the prospect as it was during the run up to Christmas. Sadly they put me in the cash office. I'm the last person you need when dealing with figures which I told them in my acceptance letter. They assured me that I'd be fine and they had every confidence that after shadowing the other 2 ladies (one of whom I was going to cover for) who'd been there for 54 years collectively, the office would be in safe hands.

Training went well and we had a good rapport. I felt happy to be the office junior having just turned 50!!

Then one day the two ladies wanted to go to lunch together and I felt honoured that they were comfortable leaving me alone.

They left a list of menial jobs which I worked my way through and efficiently ticked them off. The last task (my favourite) was to bag up loose change into the correct amounts shown on the bags. We had a machine to do this, I just had to monitor it and then tie the bag that I'd placed under the shoot. Or should have.

On their return to the office, the two ladies were greeted by the sight of my backside under the desk retrieving the numerous 5p pieces that had been thrown down the shoot at a rate of knots.

That was the last time they lunched together and I left on Christmas Eve.

Ann



Patient Information – Changes to Blood Test Services


What's Changing?


From 1 April, **community phlebotomy clinics** will be provided by **Royal Devon** in the following locations:

- **Bideford Community Hospital**
- **Torrington Community Hospital**
- **Holsworthy Community Hospital**

Hospital clinicians will continue to request your blood tests using the Community Connect system, as they do now.

Need Support or Have Questions?

 For general enquiries, contact:
rduh.communityphlebotomyservice@nhs.net

 If you've already been referred and need help, call:
01395 519 922



EVELYN'S WALK

On Monday 14th April, ten of us met at Tetcott Village Hall. It was lovely to see everyone but especially nice to see a couple of people that we hadn't seen for a while. We turned left out of the car park and walked down the hill. When we reached the sign, we turned right towards Luffincott. This becomes the drive for Luffincott Barton and St. James' Church. We ventured



through the farm yard and into the Church which is a Grade 1 listed building and is maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust. It's beautiful for its simplicity but saying that, it has a most attractive barrel vaulted roof and some stained glass windows. From there, we re-traced our steps slightly in order to return to the footpath on our left. This took us across Tetcott Estate and we had the pleasure of the company of one of the farm dogs for a while. We have walked this route previously in August '24 and November '21. It was interesting to note the differences at a different time of year. In spite of the fact that we've had very little rainfall recently, it was still quite squelchy underfoot in lower lying sections and we were very grateful for the boardwalk. There were masses of primroses, celandines, wild garlic, stitchwort, Devon violets, wood anemones and lady's smock. At least that's my names for them. The derelict cottage is gradually being taken over by nature and can easily be missed amongst the trees.

Once again, we mused about the music teacher who used to live there having to carry her shopping home as it's quite a trek from the nearest road. The footpath brought us to Tetcott Manor and the Church. We joined the lane and turned right which brought us back to the Village Hall. By that stage, it was raining quite heavily and we were glad that it hadn't started any earlier. It's a lovely circular walk of approx. 4.48 miles and took about 2.5 hours but it wouldn't have been as pleasurable if we had all got wet!

The next walk will be on Monday 12th May. We'll be setting off from the Parish Hall in Milton Damerel at 10am. Everyone is welcome but please car share if possible as parking is somewhat limited. You are welcome to contact me for any more information.

Evelyn Sharman Tel: 01409 259 848

Email: evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com



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