

CLAWTON CLARION

April 2021



Welcome to the April 2021 edition of the Clawton Clarion.

I hope that everyone is staying safe and well. Now that the vaccination programme is well underway and plans are in place for a careful removal of restrictions, let's hope we can start getting together and meeting up again very soon. Please share any good news and happy events with fellow residents by sending in photos and articles. Information in this edition is correct at the time of going to print, but we await announcements throughout April regarding further changes in restrictions.

Please send contributions for the next edition by midday on **Tuesday 20th April 2021** to graham.jw@btinternet.com or call me, Judi Graham: 01409 271265
If you would like to receive the Clarion electronically, send me your e mail address

St Leonard's Church

Easter Services in the Benefice:

Palm Sunday - March 28th 4pm at Ashwater Churchyard

Good Friday - April 2nd 2pm **Beaworthy**

Easter Day - April 4th 9.30am **Ashwater** Holy Communion
11.00am **Halwill** Holy Communion
4.00pm **Black Torrington** Church
6.00pm **Tetcott** Evening Service.



St Leonard's church continues to be open daily for private prayer and visitors. There will be a Holy Communion service on **Sunday 11th April at 11.00**

Can visitors please respect social distancing and maintain appropriate hygiene during their visits.

The St. Leonard's PCC has decided that now is the time to start planning to get back to some semblance of normal with some of the events we'd usually hold. The following are planned subject to restrictions and government guidelines:

- 3rd July: Wine & Wisdom
- 24th July: Big Breakfast
- 21st August: a Summer Event to be decided
- 25th September: Harvest Festival and lunch
- 16th October: Big Breakfast
- 20th November: Wine & Wisdom
- 19th December: Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Carols

For any church related concerns or queries please contact: Rev Stephen Skinner (Priest in charge)
Tel: 07554 142264 - email- sjmskinners@btinternet.com
Irene Ellis (Church warden) Tel:01409 271371

Clawton Parish Council News from Paul Grafton

Broadband: A Press Release has been received saying that on December 23rd 2020, Connecting Devon and Somerset, with support from Government, signed contracts with Worcester-based Airband to deliver full fibre broadband to 40,154 homes and businesses in earmarked areas of Devon and Somerset and require the construction of an estimated 2,419 miles of fibre network. Delivery will be in phases between 2021 and 2024.

Although the contracts seek to connect as many homes and businesses without superfast broadband as possible not every premise can be included within the public funding available.

Airband contractors have recently been seen carrying out a survey of the BT infrastructure in Clawton to identify routing for their cables, but this is not an indication that we will be an early part of the programme.

Roads: Thanks to Phil Allin and Adrian and Jackie Mitchell for doing the long-needed job of clearing the side of the road from Herdicott to Bramble Farm and exposing drain gratings, so water can flow down the side of the lane and into the drains rather than flowing across the road and causing the build-up of ice we saw again this winter.



Bus Shelter: Someone has kindly put boxes of children’s toys and books in the bus shelter for anyone to help themselves – but those not taken have been there a while now and are getting tatty, so any left by 10th April will be removed and taken to the recycling centre.

Recycling: If anyone has items they don’t need and would like to advertise them in the Clarion we’d be happy to do so at no charge – email Judi Graham.

Advertising: We’re happy to advertise your business in the Clarion. Rates are based on the cost of colour printing and paper:

COLOUR AD	1 month	6 months	12 months
Full page	£20	£120	£240
Half page	£10	£60	£120
Quarter page	£5	£30	£60

Planning: There are two new applications. One is for conversion of a disused barn to dwelling at Higher Horslett and the other is conversion of a garage to ancillary accommodation for a dependant relative at The Old Post Office. Details of the applications and the opportunity to make comments can be found on the Torridge planning website.

Clawton Parish Hall Report from Maralyn Bailey

April already!

Now that the days are getting longer, we can look forward to a more sociable time. I think that we have missed so much over the past few months, we all need to get that Clawton spirit back.

We are still a little in the dark about the way forward for hall users. With this in mind, the Church have booked several events up to Christmas, which are previously in this Clarion. The hall committee do not want to plan too many more events for themselves as we need the community to support the Church's booked dates. Any ideas or feedback would be welcome. We will arrange our own fundraising events, hopefully something for June and possibly a Christmas lunch early in December.

Many thanks for the books that have been donated to the hall with many titles, writers like John Grisham, Wilbur Smith, James Patterson, Dick Francis and many others. We will be placing the books into bookcases in the entrance to the hall, opening the hall a couple of times a week for the day so people can exchange their books and puzzles.

On Mondays and Thursdays the hall will be open from 9.30am to 4.00pm

Sue, our caretaker for many years, has decided not to return to her duties at the hall due to the ongoing health issues of her father. On behalf of the committee I thank her for her dedication over the years. If there is anyone wishing to take on a paid, part time job which would include taking bookings, general cleaning duties and being responsible for opening the hall when required, please contact me (or any other committee member) at the e mail address at the end of this report. A more detailed job description can be e mailed to you on request. A system is in place for the locking of the hall after hiring which means that no late night visits are required.

In the meantime any **enquiries for bookings etc should be directed to me (Maralyn)**



The finishing jobs outside the hall are to stone the area to the left of the hall, fix the gate and repair/renew the chain link fencing. If there are willing people to assist our couple of volunteers we would be so grateful for their help.

Now to a more serious issue. We, as a committee, need the support of the community to step forward and join us to enable the hall to move forward, Over the past two years we have achieved a great deal; painting the hall inside and out as well as the major job of the car park resurfacing. Please do contact me (maralynjohn@hotmail.com or via Facebook) if you feel you would like to join our band of helpers

Holsworthy Ales



After a long wait, from **Saturday, 17 April at 3.30pm** the brewery will hopefully be able to open again as an outdoor bar as well as bottle and minikeg sales.

There will, no doubt, be restrictions as to numbers at each table and so forth but with a bit of luck it will give everyone a chance to catch up - even if at a distance. Fingers crossed for good weather but, if not, please bring a coat/umbrella as indoor tables will not be permitted until (at least) the middle of May.

The intention will be to open every Saturday until October and the restrictions should gradually disappear, at which point plans will be made for an evening event or two.

Sarah and I very much look forward to welcoming you to the brewery once again.

Lockdown Life - with thanks to Moyra at Town Farm

A typical day in my lockdown life; Walk to shops. Freezing cold.

Nose runs. Blow nose.

Put mask on. Nose runs. Take mask off. Blow nose. Put mask on again.

Enter Waitrose. Specs steam up. Walk into magazine rack.

Apologise to magazine rack.

Take specs off. Polish specs, put specs on. Specs steam up again.

Take specs off.

Walk into cake stand. Apologise to cake stand.

Grope my way along aisles, picking up random items in the hope that they are milk, bread and decaf tea.

Put specs on.

Replace tropical fruit juice, breakfast brioche and packet soup.

Pick up milk, bread and tea. Nose runs. Surreptitiously blow nose whilst attempting to keep mask in place.

Nod at other shoppers glaring at me. Grope way to checkout. Specs steam up.

Attempt to differentiate between £50 note and £10 note and give one or the other to cashier.

Exit Waitrose and walk up town to shops. Put on mask. Enter Meet & Greet Café. Order extra hot coffee. Exit café, attempting to take off mask whilst holding hot coffee, bag of shopping.

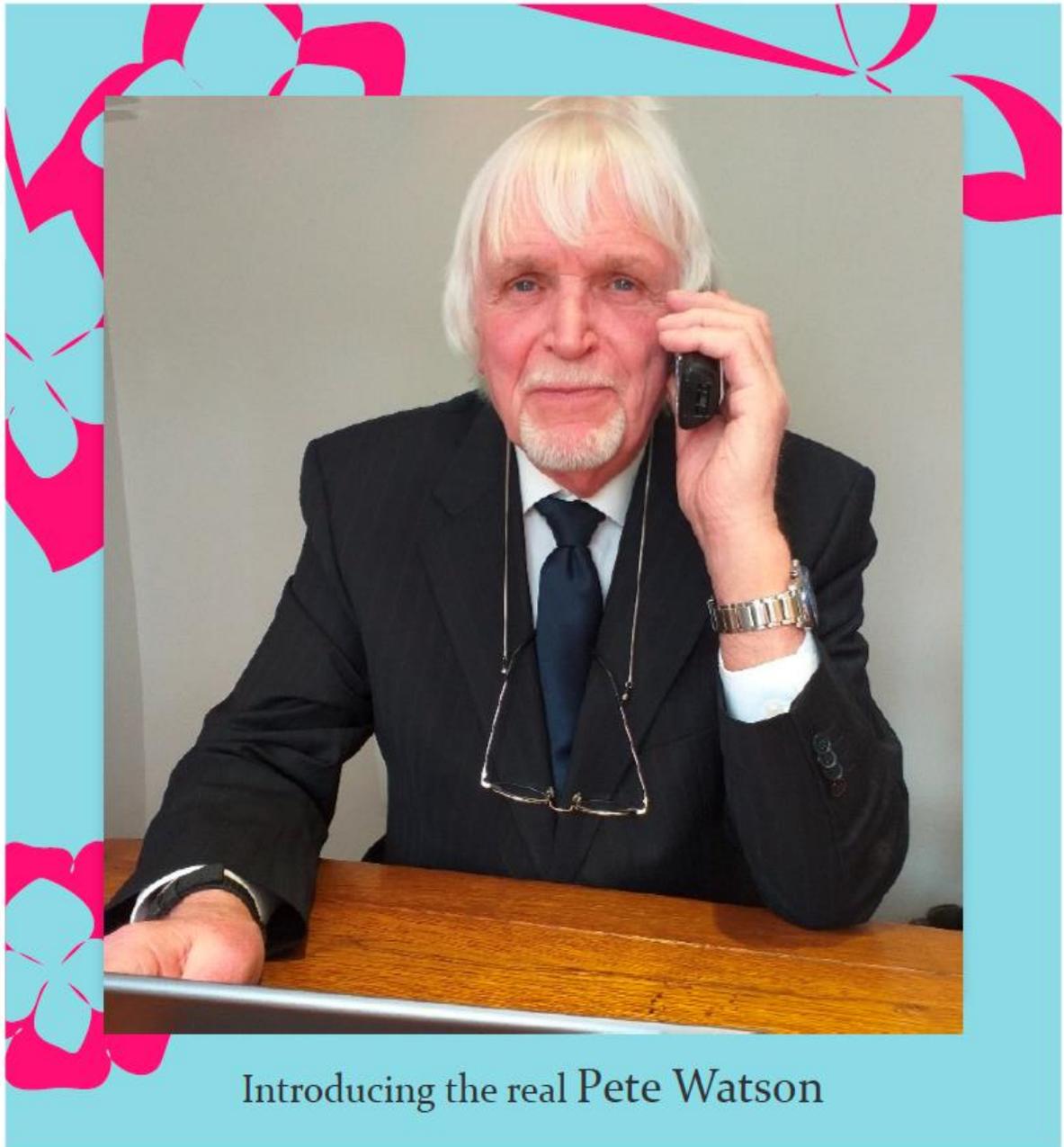
Open café door, grab rail to negotiate steps down and my temper. Yelp as hot coffee spills over my hand. Attempt to set down coffee, but can't find a table, chair, windowsill, flower pot, rubbish bin or fly-tipped TV on which to rest it.

Specs steam up. Sun shines straight into my eyes. Risk life and limb on zebra crossing, holding hot coffee in one hand, tissue in the other and dangling a shopping bag dangerously from arm.

Stumble to Stanhope Square using sense of smell.

Sit on bench. Drink coffee to warm up. Read Holsworthy Post. Freeze. Go home.





Some of you might know me as your Torridge District Councillor, this year, 2021 I have decided to stand in the Devon County Council Elections

A new face with a different voice. I know this is a difficult time but I hope I can count on your support on the 6th of May. You are welcome to call me for a chat on 01409 271329.



Calling All Local Farmers

Coming up on 24th May there will be a **farm plastic recycling day** at Holsworthy Market – An opportunity to have a real tidy up and recycle all the farm plastic you have accumulated. Westcountry Rivers Trust are working with FWAG South West to deliver this. For more information <https://preventingplasticpollution.com/events/holsworthy-farmers-market-plastic-recycling-day/>

Environmental Ramblings from Andy Rogers andyrogers.mes@hotmail.co.uk

With spring fast approaching, many of us are turning our thoughts to getting out and about. Now is also a great time to make a few changes to supercharge the impact you and your garden can have. One of the biggest improvements you could do to help wildlife is to create a wildlife pond, no matter how small. They are a lot easier to create than you may think and even something sink size will have a real benefit. There are many places to find instructions – I like the simple information from the Wildlife Trust: - <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-pond> They also have some great tips for a mini pond : - <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-mini-pond>

I have just finished building my own –it was not difficult, or strenuous, just rather muddy. Here are a few pictures showing the progress in my garden:



Now I will just leave it and during the spring it will become naturally colonised with the critters that our birds and other wildlife need. Remember – a wildlife pond is not for your fish – it is much more diverse than a carp pond!

Any ideas / thoughts or desires for things environmental feel free to drop me an email. I live in Chilsworthy, and have worked in the 'Environmental sector' for 25 years so am always happy to chat with like-minded people or those wanting more information

Inter Parish Walk Report from Evelyn Sharman

Having been on a walk recently & experienced some seriously squelchy knee deep mud where a footpath crossed a field that was occupied by cattle, Gill suggested a less challenging walk. I happily agreed knowing how close I had come to losing my wellies & my balance. It would have made a comical sight for anyone that was watching!! We met in the Village Hall car park in Bridgerule. Fortuitously, the timing was such that I was able to make use of the Post Office that operates from there on Mondays (09.30 - 11.30). For those of you that know Bridgerule, you must wonder what route we took as Bridgerule is well known for NOT having any footpaths. This is why it has never been included on the programme of Inter Parish walks.

Our route took us left out of the car park & then right at the T-junction which is opposite The Bridge Inn. The bridge crosses the River Tamar which is generally classed as the county boundary between Devon & Cornwall. Bearing in mind that most of the properties seem to lie west of the river, I wouldn't have been surprised to find that Bridgerule is in Cornwall but it is classed as being in Devon. We turned left at the Chapel & headed up the hill admiring the hedge laying that was being done in a field on the left by Bridge Mill. Apparently, credit must be given to the Bridgerule hedge & coppice group. If anyone wishes to learn more about this traditional skill, contact Alan Beat at Bridge Mill. If you ever get the opportunity to visit when it is allowed to reopen, I would highly recommend it as the mill itself has been restored & can be seen producing flour on special open days. The grounds of the property extend to sixteen acres & are stunningly beautiful. There are several traditional farm buildings including a mowhay.

At the top of the hill, we took the opportunity to venture into the church yard of St. Bridget's. I believe it is Grade One listed & it has some very interesting architecture & features. Gill & I enjoyed the sunshine whilst studying the headstones. Some of them are very old & the inscriptions are almost illegible but there are also lots of very familiar local family names that we recognised. There had obviously been an abundance of snowdrops that must have been a picture a few weeks ago. We had the benefit of daffodils, primroses & grape hyacinths. There were also some unfamiliar bright red flowers. I have been reliably informed that they were poppy anemones & are more commonly found



in the Mediterranean. It was very tranquil & we were reluctant to leave but Gill had promised to show me the only Public Right of Way (PROW) in Bridgerule. It isn't a footpath. It isn't a bridleway. It's classified as a BOAT (Byway Open to All Traffic). It's a stony track that starts just below the Church on the opposite side of the road. There's a sign that says "Unsuitable for motor vehicles". I would definitely agree with that as it was very steep & extremely slippery as the rocky surface was very wet. However, with a bit of care we negotiated our way to the bottom where the route goes over a little river bridge & up the other side. This section was a bit muddy underfoot but much more manageable than the rocky section. At the end of the track, we turned right down the lane & basically completed a very nice circular route passing the School on the way. It's a bit off the beaten track & there may not be any footpaths but Bridgerule is a lovely place to visit.

Confirming that lockdown restrictions are still in place BUT they are due to be relaxed from 29th March if things continue to improve. I anticipate being able to enjoy a socially distanced walk as part of a group of six on Monday 12th April in Pyworthy. On this occasion, I intend contacting the people that were unable to participate in one of the last walks of 2020 when the restrictions changed at very short notice. I'll give a further update next month but let's hope that things continue to improve so that we can look forward to being able to walk as bigger groups again.

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

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Clawton Primary School News from Mrs Rachael Sharpe (Executive Head)

School is fully back, a year after the start of the pandemic. It's fantastic how resilient our children have been despite all the challenges of the past year. Parents too have really supported their children's education at home during lock down periods which has enabled a smooth transition back to learning in school. I'd like to say a huge 'thank you' to the Clawton staff who have been working so hard during this time, juggling remote learning with face to face teaching, alongside all the other pressures the lockdown brought with it - demonstrating strength of character throughout.



I have recently taken on the role of Executive Headteacher at Clawton Primary School. I am very excited to start working with staff, pupils, parents and the wider Clawton community; continuing to build upon the good work that has already happened under Mr. Railston's leadership.



I have been a teacher for 17 years and have worked in a range of city and rural schools. My passion and vision is to enable us all to flourish (pupils, staff and the community), in a safe and nurturing environment where everyone is valued and has a voice. My specialisms are SEND, Safeguarding and School Improvement, having recently taken a special measures school through rapid change to ensure a good outcome with outstanding elements. I lead on Safeguarding and Character Education within the Alumnis MAT and believe pupils should leave primary school ready to take on their next educational chapter and become adults who know they can make a positive difference to the world - which aligns with Clawton School's vision of 'Inspiring Changemakers'.

When not working, I am a Mum to Sophie who is 11 and a strong advocate for hearing impaired children, being born profoundly deaf herself; wife to Paul - a local paramedic who often works out of Holsworthy station, dog owner to our gorgeous golden lab Hallie and outdoor lover. We often use our camper van to visit places and explore the world we live in. I enjoy the outdoors and am very excited to see and improve the fabulous outside space Clawton Primary School has to offer its pupils.





To enable all its schools to concentrate on excellent teaching and learning, the Alumnis Multi-Academy Trust believes in developing teams around the classroom. James Creek and Sonia Grant have recently been welcomed onto the school team. They are both social inclusion officers for the Trust, with James working at Clawton each week alongside families and pupils, for many different reasons. He has already been very busy getting to know the children and offering support where needed. He has volunteered to run a Rugby Club in the summer term as he has experience of working alongside Exeter Chiefs – something new for Clawton, but we know there are a lot of Exeter Chiefs supporters in the school community!

As the whole country begins to return to a new normal, we are looking to re-establish lots of things at Clawton which we have missed during the recent lockdowns, not least of these being the outdoor education and after school clubs the children have always loved in the past. We have plans for a brand new library and a new system called Accelerated Reader which helps develop progress in reading at all levels. Our fabulous PTA have just raised us a whopping £1300 for new books with the children taking part in Ready Steady Read to mark World Book Day! They have also built up a fabulous sum of money to support the school in extending the outdoor education provision and we hope to have an outdoor classroom in place during the summer term, with every child enjoying Wild Tribe sessions. This in turn allows pupils to consider how they can support the community, become entrepreneurs and environmentalists and continually develop character meaning at Clawton. We are educating for academic excellence, character, community and innovation - our Curriculum 360 or C360 for short.

Trips to Beer Mill are high on our agenda. We also hope to go on other school trips, allow our year 6's to camp out on the field, using their Wild Tribe skills to cook their own tea over a fire pit, and also host a Summer Fayre, but this is largely dependent on COVID restrictions easing and Devon School Risk assessments adapting over time.



We have really missed our great team of volunteers! We are looking forward to welcoming them back to listen to readers and get involved with Gardening Club and other character building activities. We will be in touch with everyone who enjoyed being involved with this before and are always looking for new volunteers who would like to get involved. To ensure the safety of our children there is a straightforward application process and level 2 safeguarding training session which I deliver.



As part of our Character Education and Community Cornerstones within our C360, we want to build stronger links locally and have spoken to individuals just this week, with a view to driving this forward after Easter. If you have ideas of how we might support each other going forward, please get in touch – if there is one positive to come out of the Pandemic, I think it will be the strength of communities and their willingness to look after each other.

Clawton Primary School is a great school full of fantastic children and staff. We have over 100 children on roll, including a thriving Preschool and are even oversubscribed for September 2021 but are looking to have all pupils on roll that have requested Clawton as their first place. We will always strive to develop, build on strong foundations and secure a strong future for Clawton Primary School at the heart of the community.

Kindest regards.

Rachael Sharpe