

Parish Council Chair's Report

Suzanne Hales – 28th March 2025

Welcome to any new residents and hello to you all.

It's lovely to see the sunshine and all the bulbs springing to life.

Mike has installed a new boat down at the village entrance which will soon be planted, a beautiful display on the main road entrance to Clyst Honiton.

I am still Chair for the time being as my move has been put back. We are looking for new councillors to join the Parish Council, if you think you could make a difference to your community come to the next Parish Council meeting and see what we do.

The bus shelters are booked in for a revamp and two new shelters will be installed next to Amazon and Stovax. An advantage of being between Cranbrook and Exeter is that we are much better connected than we used to be.

I can assure residents of St Michaels Hill and Close that the Parish Council is as fed up as anyone about the on-going delays getting the road resurfaced.

It is on Highways' to-do list, but was bumped into this financial year (April on) by the Government's obsession with pot holes, leaving Devon no choice but to prioritise those.

We are chasing for a date and have been assured it will be sorted.

Thanks to all of you from St Michaels Hill and St Michaels Close who attend the Parish Council meetings about the state of your road - it really helps when we have members of the public on the meeting minutes.

Both Sara Randall Johnson and Henry Gent are County Councillors who are also on the East Devon Highways Committee. Keep any emails polite and to the point. They are busy, and there will never be a big enough budget, but they can get things moving.

henry.gent@devon.gov.

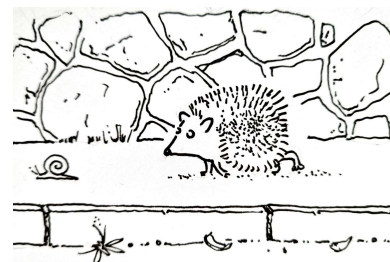
sara.randalljohnson@devon.gov.uk

If you are planning to improve your home, please look at the new Neighbourhood Plan (on the parish website) for guidance before you have your plans drawn up or come and see us at a Parish Council meeting.

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter Holiday.

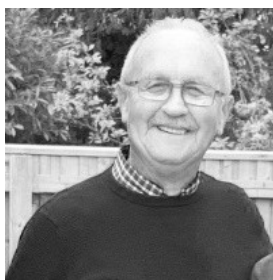
Suzanne Hales

Chair of the Parish Council



Please give hedgehogs food and water if they are wandering around your garden. It has been very dry and there are not many slugs for them. They like cat food but must not drink milk.

Cllr Mike's Village Maintenance Report



As you will have noticed, there is a new boat planter. This was donated by Gary, one of our Parish Councillors. Thanks to all those who helped with this – Gary, Jeff and especially James who transported the boat free of charge.

And a special thanks to Nick, the contract manager at Home Farm who kindly arranged for a tonne of top soil for the boat, again at no charge.

You will have noticed that hedge height (and the wire fence in it) has been reduced on the boundary of the Playing Field. There were two reasons for this, and the second half will be done next year.

The main reason was that the Parish Council considered the hedge prevented an easy view of the Field and people (of all ages) behave themselves better when they think they can be seen.

The other reason is that we have to keep that hedge under control and the bigger it is, the bigger that job is. The last trim the Parish Council paid for cost around £800. By significantly reducing it, it can be cut without tools being held at neck height (!) and, obviously, makes future maintenance more manageable.

Again, all of this work was done at no cost by volunteers helping myself and Sean, so big thank you's to Paul and Fred.

The nesting season means that the hedge will be left as it is now, but the other boundaries also need work – the brambles at the bottom of the field are gradually taking over...

It is great that more people are offering their support to these projects at no cost and please do not be shy in coming forward!

Any flower donations near the end of this month (April) will be greatly appreciated. Begonias, impatiens/busy lizzies, and petunias would be ideal.

Thank you everyone for your continued support.

mikemuir@clysthoniton.org.uk

Clyst Clatter



This is an Agusta Westland AW159 Wildcat helicopter. It can carry nearly 3 tonnes, has a top speed of 193mph, and can stay in the air for a little over two hours with standard fuel tanks.

Its engines can produce 2,600 horsepower. A medium-sized car will produce about 150 horsepower.

It has a lot of clever electronics to help the pilots complete their missions and they seem reassuringly expensive to maintain. Minimal research suggests that the Army has 34 and the Navy 28. I think the one I saw last week was a Navy version, probably based in Yeovilton.

Clyst Natural^{al} Watch - Frogs!

Let's say you are a primitive swimming creature happily wriggling around eating stuff, getting your oxygen by squirting water over your gills, getting big and fat and generally having a great time. Then fish start eating all your relatives. And the eggs you lay.

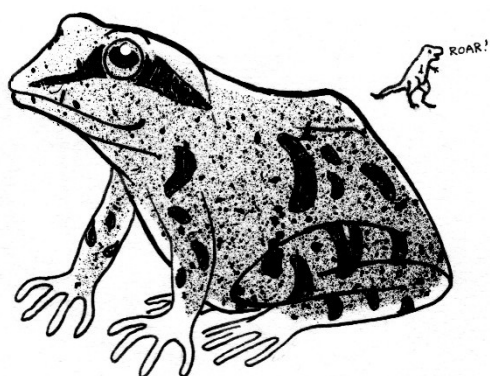
What you need to do is live in a bit of water with no fish.

If the pond you lived in regularly dried up and all the fish died, but you found a way to cope with this, then you'd have the pond to yourself when there was water.

That's what frogs do. They start out as soft eggs, hatch into soft, swimming tadpoles, put on a lot of weight and then prepare themselves for a life on land. They develop a skeleton so that they can support themselves out of water and lungs they can force air into to breathe (although they absorb oxygen through their skin and so can hibernate under water).

Unlike reptiles who lay hard-shelled eggs (and so are less dependent on water) frogs still need to find water to breed. They also need to keep themselves damp, which reptiles don't.

Last year, scientists found a tadpole fossil that is 160 million years old.



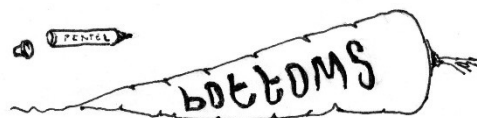
Versions of humans have only been around about 3 million years. Frogs were around when the dinosaurs died out and when some small mammals evolved into mammoths. Frogs were minding their own business when something the size of a large dog, decided it liked eating fish and evolved into a whale.

Nothing would surprise a frog.

Allotments – better than alittlements

Grow your own rude vegetable!

Within the village of Clyst Honiton there is a plot of church-owned land just up behind the Duke of York with seven individual allotments. Six are being worked by allotment holders and there is one which is now available to someone who lives in the parish.



It does not cost much for a year and digging is not as boring as going to the gym. If this interests you, please get in touch with Debbie via email at **debs0106@gmail.com**

It may be that you want to share the responsibility with a friend or neighbour if you think it's too much to take on the whole plot, which has been done before. Just drop Debbie a message.

There is **horse poo-amundo** for collection from Janvrin. In various states of decomposition. An allotment needs constant feeding, but most gardens round here will have red clay soil (excellent nutrients, appalling drainage and water-holding in drought) so adding a mulch (don't bother digging) of composted manure will really help.

Her contact email is: **janvrinedbrooke@gmail.com**

Get Creative

the "Without End" Workshop on Sunday 4th May.

Exeter's "Without End" crew is bringing their collaborative art workshop to **Clyst Honiton Church on Sunday 4th May 12 noon.**

Grab your paints, pens, knitting needles, or notebooks and join in—this is your chance to create, chat, or quietly doodle while live improvised music sets the mood.

No pressure, no rules. Kids welcome, totally free. Drop in anytime between noon and 2pm—stay for 10 minutes or the whole session!

Share Your Spring Spirit!

Our parish noticeboard (by the Cranbrook-bound bus stop) is ready for your spring-inspired creations! Whether it's a photo, painting, pressed flower, or a crafty collage—all skill levels, ages, and mediums are welcome. Try to keep pieces small (ie: A5) so there's room for everyone's work.

Fancy a spot?

leave a note at Corner House.
Let's fill the board with colour and cheer!

Best wishes
Tom



Arrival of Spring in Woldgate –
David Hockney

Church Chatter

News from St Michael and All Angel Church, Clyst Honiton
Sheila Watson (Church Secretary)

We were very pleased to have a full church for a baptism of a beautiful baby boy, during our communion service on the second Sunday in March.



We may have celebrated Palm Sunday by the time you read this – another service that is always very special for our congregation.

The Bingo sessions at the beginning of February and March were successful and the profit made enabled us to have the grass in the churchyard cut as the Spring sunshine had encouraged it to grow again (but it is lovely to see the daffodils and primroses coming to life too).



Our Wednesday morning 'Coffee and Company' mornings at the Duke of York donated to the local Hospice. We always seem to end up laughing and really look forward to Wednesday mornings – you are welcome to join us any time between 10 and 11am.

The church is looking forward to the 'Without End Workshop' to be held in church – see separate article. I shall be there with my cross stitch, what will you be doing?

- **Communion services** are on the **2nd and 4th Sunday** of every month.

There will be a **service on Palm Sunday - 13 April** but there is **NO** service on Easter Day.

- **Bingo on first Saturdays** of the month –
May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th beginning at **7:30 at the Duke of York.**
- **Coffee Get Together** every **Wednesday at 10am** for an hour of chat in great company, again at the Duke of York

Thanks

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue and who have helped to distribute it. The next edition will be ready in July and if you have anything you would like to be considered for sharing with our readers all contributions should be received by **June 20th, 2025.**

The editor is Sean Wheeldon, Chippenham, Clyst Honiton EX5 2NG.

You can email your corrections, contributions and complaints to the editor at seanwheeldon@clysthoniton.org.uk

The Clyst Chatter is published by the Clyst Honiton Parish Council.

Virtual Chatter - Send your name **and your house address** (so we don't also deliver the paper one) from the email you want to receive the Chatter.

Please also include this: 'I am happy for my email and address details to be held by the Parish Council solely for the purpose of receiving the Clyst Chatter.'

The Chatter is also on the Parish website, so you can download old ones as well as the current edition.

Parish Council Meetings

14th May 2025 The Black Horse
 11th June 2025 The Black Horse
 9th July 2025 The Black Horse

Additional Planning Meetings may be called and advised on the Parish Notice Board and will be announced on the website **clysthoniton.org.uk**



Parish Council Meetings are terrific fun, if your idea of fun is a Parish Council Meeting.

*Join us for May's meeting, we will be very pleased to see you.
 Please always check venue in case of necessary changes.*

Donald Trump's birthday is on 14th June, for anyone worried about last post dates.

For those interested in keeping the place tidy:

eastdevon.gov.uk/environmental-maintenance/street-cleaning/request-street-cleaning/

We report the layby regularly and East Devon do clear away the Adblue containers and food wrappers.

Potholes: **devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/**

Please contact via Rob Martin (Parish Clerk)
 07444 780437
 or email
clerk@clysthoniton.org.uk
 Parish website www.clysthoniton.org.uk

Parish Council is:
 Gary Collier
 Suzanne Hales (Chairman)
 Grant Harrison
 Mike Muir
 Sean Wheeldon

Stop Press!

We have all been missing the zipwire. The old one had reached the end of its serviceable life. The Parish Council are organising a new one. It should be in place for summer.

The Playing Field could do with a bit of tidying around the edges. If you feel up to some pruning, please contact Mike. The play area is gradually reducing as the brambles and tree branches encroach.

Keith's Wordsearch

Let's hope you're not doing this late at night, for the Wordsearch is about ghosts and things mystical – often on the darker side! Some are names of ghosts from stories, plays and films. Others are names used for spiritual or mystic beings, or things linked with them.



As usual, words run vertically, horizontally and diagonally and in both directions.

There are SEVEN letters left which form an anagram of another word for ghosts.

Banquo	Hades	Severus
Beetlejuice	Kali	Shiva
Belial	Lilith	Tanith
Canterville	Marley	Tarot
Cerberus	Nebula	White Sheet
Devilish	Peter Quint*	Willow Man
Echo	Pythia	Yara
Fat Friar*	Raine	Yorick
Faust	Rune	

B	W	H	I	T	E	S	H	E	E	T	S
A	I	H	T	Y	P	B	Y	P	P	E	B
N	L	A	Y	I	H	E	E	Q	L	E	D
Q	L	D	A	S	L	T	U	L	E	R	E
U	O	E	R	R	E	I	I	T	I	I	V
O	W	S	A	R	N	V	L	N	L	A	I
O	M	M	A	T	R	E	E	F	A	T	L
H	A	I	A	E	J	B	A	R	K	T	I
C	N	R	T	U	U	U	U	I	U	T	S
E	O	N	I	L	S	N	E	A	S	S	H
T	A	C	A	T	E	Y	O	R	V	C	K
C	E	R	B	E	R	U	S	H	I	V	A

Bonus picture:

If you have any photos, engravings, or collages of interest to anyone else that can be bothered to struggle to the end of the Chatter, please send them in. Otherwise I'll have to add another picture of the church or the playing field...

