

The Spring Chatter

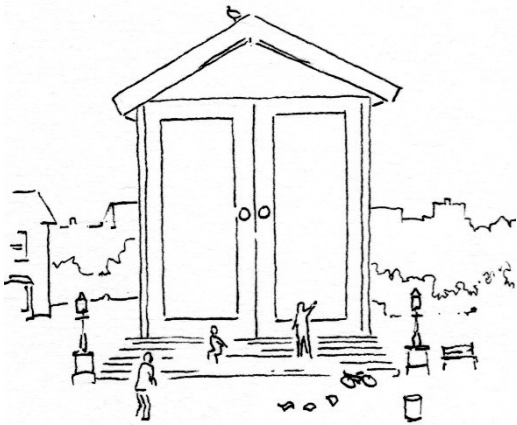


April 2026 – Please consider the environment and recycle before reading.

Here we go, as welcome as a persistent dandelion in a lawn, another edition of the Chatter – Clyst Honiton's oldest parish magazine...

Clyst Honiton Village Library is Open!

Thanks to everyone who made this possible, especially Megan.



You are welcome to take whatever you want to read and, of course, donate any books you think others would enjoy.

It will hopefully get more books into kids' lives and if you put something really good in there, post it on Facebook!

It is locked at night but is otherwise open to all. Please do not bring hot drinks into the library and no running in the corridors.

This issue's Celebrity Book Borrower is Alan Carr!
He borrowed *A Beginner's Guide to Heron Care*.

Play Equipment Vote

We are getting a roundabout!

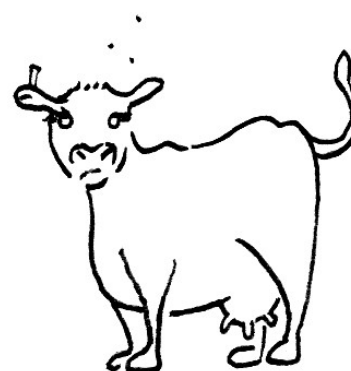
I wanted a trampoline but the votes are in and budding astronauts will be able to practice controlling their motion sickness and learn about centripetal force.

The Parish Council are getting quotes in now and hope that dizziness will commence by the end of May. It will be situated opposite the swings.



South of the A30 - Janvrin Edbrooke

Not much to report, other than Spring is finally here which is an active agricultural time. This brings increased tractor traffic to our lanes and a twice a day traffic calming when the Northmore's mixed herd of milking cows cross the road to their pastures.



This is an age-old ritual worth witnessing before the dairy cows disappear forever when Marlcombe arrives. Crossing times are around 8.30 and 3.45pm and are free, you can count the cows in / out or play "Spot the Breed". (Hints: Holstein- Friesians, Ayrshires, Jersey, Guernsey, Swiss-Brown).

Have a good summer and enjoy dairy products.

Janvrin

A note from the Parish Council about the plans for the new town.

So far, we have been unable to convince East Devon that building on half of our parish requires the remains of Clyst Honiton to have some idea of future budgeting and capacity to deal with a lot of planning applications. It would also be nice to feel that residents of Holbrook could depend on the Parish Council knowing more than could be found in East Devon press releases...

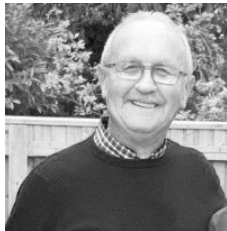
Although the government is not supporting East Devon's new town proposal (and seems to be preferring the other, larger towns planned elsewhere), Cllr Todd Olive (current chair of the strategic planning committee) thinks plans for Marlcombe should progress anyway.

We had a meeting with David Reed MP and he agreed that Clyst Honiton Parish Council was not being treated as an important stakeholder and is looking to nudge East Devon in the right direction.

<https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/claims-over-devon-planning-controversy-10875277>

The link above is interesting.

Councillor Mike's Maintenance and Repairs Report



First, big thank yous to our new Parish Councillor Chris, and to James, Fred, Edd and Debbie for their help.

The second half of the Field hedge has been reduced in height and the concrete posts left behind will be reduced in height soon, leaving a much tidier and more manageable boundary for the Field.

The Parish Council has put a lot of (expensive) bark down in the Field around the climbing equipment. The old bark was gradually becoming compost and too thin to offer much cushioning.

I have removed the overgrowing grass from the path into the field and so it is back to its original width and more pushchair/wheelchair friendly.

You may also have noticed that the failing trellis has been replaced behind the bus stop.

Just a reminder that all this maintenance work is voluntary, the days of paid council workers weeding and tidying are long gone. Any help is always appreciated.

Mike

Note: Mike is already up to over 60 hours' work this year keeping the village tidy. Thanks Mike! If you are able to offer some time, please contact him.

Moles! Cyst Naturalist Watch



Moles are omnivores (they eat meat and veg), but their diet primarily consists of earthworms and other small invertebrates.

Mole tunnels are worm traps. Worms doing their thing fall into them. The mole then paralyses the unlucky worms and stores them if it doesn't eat them straight away.

The less food there is around (worms) the more tunnels a mole will make. They can be 100 metres long! Some will be deep enough to protect the mole from cold weather.

When we dig tunnels, we have to work out how to make sure fresh air is getting in. Moles don't do that. They have adapted to tolerate low levels of oxygen and high levels of carbon dioxide in the air they breathe.

Because they live in the dark, they have tiny eyes and poor sight. They can sense light and will run away from it (as this would mean their tunnel has a hole in it or has collapsed). This also means they can also tell how long days are (and so know the time of year) and whether it is time to get up yet.

ALLOTMENTS - BETTER THAN ALLITLEMENTS

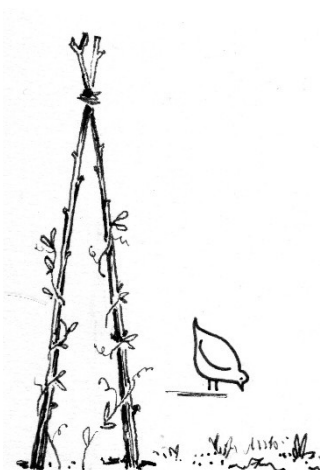
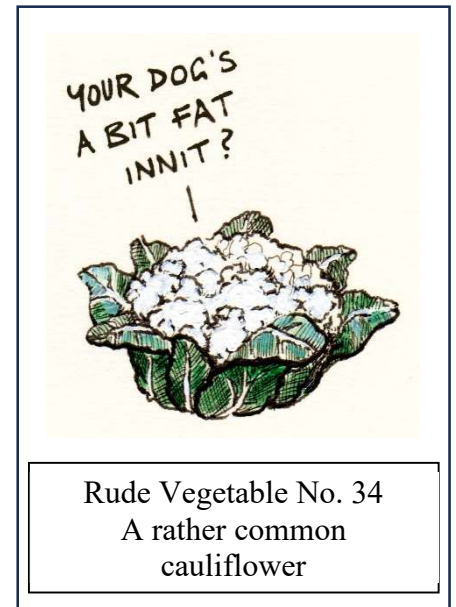
Grow your own rude vegetable.

It's all good news at Ship Lane allotments with all seven plots let and being eagerly prepared for the season ahead. A big welcome to our newest member, Kim, who has got stuck in and is already making impressive headway.

The four warm days in the middle of March have woken the plum and pear trees up and even the strawberry plants have flowers ready for the bees and butterflies waking up after a long winter.

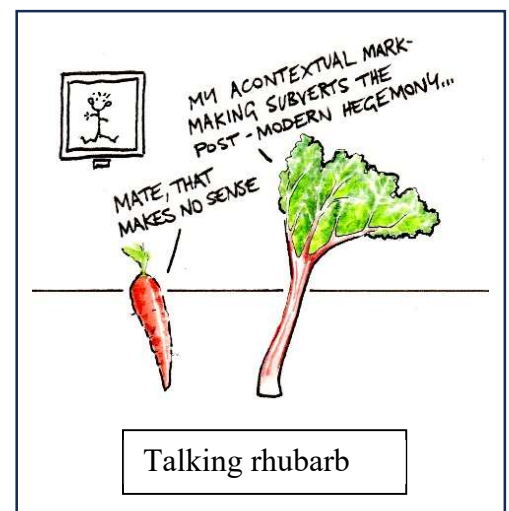
One of the plot holders unearthed more than she was expecting when a buried water but stand revealed a perfect honeycomb nestled inside – now abandoned but showing the importance of undisturbed places for our pollinators to dwell.

By the next Chatter, I am confident many plot holders' friends and neighbours will be receiving spare produce from this green-fingered group of growers.



Debbie

debs0106@gmail.com



jk Church Chatter and Coffee Mornings

Sheila Watson



All services have moved to half past nine but are still on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

Wednesday coffee mornings continue at the Duke of York, all are welcome.

And don't forget the Bingo fund raiser on the first Saturday of the month, also at the Duke of York.

1-1 Score draw at home for planter – rematch unlikely.

The planter in front of the village sign just after the bridge was destroyed by a car leaving the road and crossing the footpath (!) in February. Judging by the scattered bits of car, the planter gave as good as it got.



The Parish Council is trying to get details from the police so that we can claim for a replacement.

Gone but not forgotten

Other Traffic News – Residents' Parking

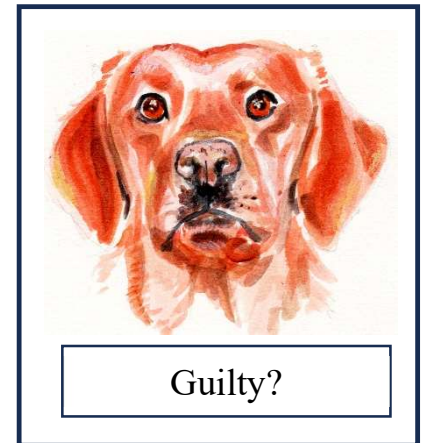
The Parish Council received enough interest in this that it has been progressed to a request to Devon County Council.

Nothing will happen quickly, but the next step would be a referendum based on the details of the scheme Devon proposes. It will require expenditure by Devon and this will slow the process.



Unearthed evidence links local dog to murder

In what appears to be a remorse-driven act, Stanley the village Labrador finally dug up the Victorian blue glass poison bottle, possibly used in the murder of William Ashford, and handed it over in some dribble to his owner, Paul. At time of writing, it is not clear what further steps are being taken.



Do Chatter readers know of any other pets in the village with a criminal past? Dob your neighbour's rabbit in using the usual email address.

We Can't Keep Meeting Like This! – Parish Council Meetings



To contact Clyst Honiton Parish Council

Rob Martin (Parish Clerk)
07444 780437
or NEW email
clerk@clysthonitonparish.gov.uk

NEW Parish website
clysthonitonparish.gov.uk

***Meeting dates – all at the Black Horse 7pm
Dates are being decided***

Next pencilled in as 22nd April, 2026

Please check website for updates

Your Parish Council is:

Gary Collier
Chris Jenkins
Grant Harrison
Mike Muir
Sean Wheeldon (Chair)

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 30th, 2026.**

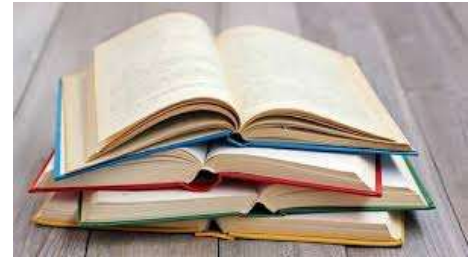
The editor is Sean Wheeldon, Chippenham, Clyst Honiton EX5 2NG.

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

This Chatter is also on the Parish website, so you can download old ones as well as the current edition. Or not.

Keith's Wordsearch

As books get a mention in this edition of the Chatter, our wordsearch is featuring different styles of writing that you find in books and some of the many different typefaces used when printing. In the list of words used you will find typefaces are denoted by a letter T.



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

There are just eight letters left which form an anagram of a type of book that most of you will have, probably in your kitchen.

Biography	Futura T	Romance
Calibri T	Hei T	Sans Serif T
Copperplate T	Meiryo T	Scandi Noir *
Eras T	Melodrama	Sci-Fi
Essay	Memoir	Supernatural
Fairy Tale *	Nyala T	Tahoma T
Feminist	Parable	Western
	Recipe	Wide Latin * T

- Two separate words

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

Extra Chatter!

THE CLYST HONITON VILLAGE FETE MAY 2015

2015 was pre-Covid, David Cameron's Conservatives were elected in and he announced there would be a referendum to decide if we should leave Europe.

Jeremy Clarkson punched his producer, was sacked by the BBC and never looked back.

In July, the Iranians agreed a deal limiting their nuclear capabilities and sanctions against them were lifted.

And Birdman won the Oscar for best picture. Hmm...

Anyway, as used to be the case it was sunny!





Spot the Ball



Spot the Eggs



And... Spot the Egg (this did not end well)



I think this is someone wanting their £1 admission back after Gray's singing.



And Lynne who was still Chair of the Parish Council and organised the village owning the Field.

Don't forget, the new website is up and we are starting to populate it with useful stuff.

Our aim is to have rolling updates so that progress is not announced (sometimes) months after things have happened.

Will it be exciting? Yes! Well, maybe not. But seeing as you all ignore the Parish Council meetings, this should help with understanding where things are at and why.

<https://clysthonitonparish.gov.uk/>

The End