



Blackawton Beacon

August 2026

published jointly by the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council

— THE —

GREAT BRITISH RAKE OFF

Our Churchyard - Cared for by Our Community

**SATURDAY 22 &
SUNDAY 23 AUGUST**

★ 10am start at the church each day ★

Join us for our third annual Great British Rake Off – a weekend of fresh air, good company and caring for our beautiful churchyard.

We leave the grass to grow naturally through the spring and early summer to encourage wildflowers, insects and other wildlife. Once flowering has finished, we gather to cut and rake the grass, helping to maintain a beautiful churchyard while supporting biodiversity.



*All
welcome*
FOR AS LONG AS
YOU HAVE TO
SPARE



STRIMMERS



RAKES



BARROWS



DUMPY BAGS



GLOVES &
SAFETY GOGGLES

*And any other
useful tools and
suitable protective
gear*

Questions & RSVPs: simon@blackawtoncommunity.com

St Michael's Church

Services for August

Date	Time	Service
Sunday 2nd	9.30 am	Holy Communion (by extension)
Sunday 9th	9.30 am	Breakfast Church
Sunday 16th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd	9.30 am	Morning Worship
Sunday 30th	11.00 am	Holy Communion <i>United Benefice service</i>

The services above are correct at time of going to press. Please see weekly pew sheet, gate notices or "A Church Near You" website for the latest information. We will also email any changes or additions to our

mailing list – if you're not on our mailing list and would like to be, please send an email saying "subscribe" with "Blackawton Church News" as the subject to **chris.janman@gmail.com**.

There is a **Mini Food Bank** in the Church porch, open 24 hours a day, every day. **Please give what you can and take what you need.**

From the registers

Sunday 19th July

Baptism of Emily May Wreyford

A view from the pew

from **Jeff Hacon**

I am writing this during the third 'heatwave' of the summer. I have just returned from a very refreshing walk in Sandquay Woods near Dartmouth. It was much cooler inside the wood. This is partly due to the trees casting shade and preventing the sun's rays from heating the ground but mostly it is due to transpiration, the evaporation of water from the leaves using the heat of the sun. This pulls water up the stem from the roots. The whole process means that trees make the area around them cooler. The internet tells me trees can cool towns by up to 12°C and the countryside by around half that. Of course this relies on the trees being able to access sufficient water from deep underground. In some deserts it is possible to track the paths of underground rivers by lines of trees in otherwise barren landscapes.

This reminds me of the start of Psalm one: "Blessed is the man .. whose .. delight is the law of the Lord. He is like a tree planted by streams for water which yields its fruit in due season and whose leaf does not wither." (verses 1-3 abridged)

That tree is not only healthy, it is also a source of benefit to the people and environment around it. It shares its shade and fruit to any who come near. In the Bible one image of the Holy Spirit is water which flows from Jesus through his people and out into a thirsty world.

We too can reach out to God, allow Him to refresh and restore us, and then, maybe, we will choose to work with Him to refresh the world around us.

Our church team

Vicar	Rev'd Matt Gorton	01803 906861		
Churchwardens	Kate Janman	01803 712362	Lay Readers	Frank Robinson 01803 712249
	Chris Janman	01803 712362		Lyn Robinson 01803 712249

Village Life

Sustainable Blackawton

from **Ruth Coe**

Update on feasibility study for local, community owned, wind power

The project investigating the potential for local energy generation by wind power has progressed. Our consultant partners will be contacting landowners to establish whether they might be willing to host a turbine. If so, more detailed investigation will hopefully prove successful and, much more importantly, acceptable to the majority of Blackawton parishioners. To this end we feel community engagement must begin, and this is absolutely vital if this project is to deliver the benefits that we hope for.

We do not yet have positive news on siting, or sizing of a turbine, to share with parishioners. However, we do feel that a community meeting offering parishioners the opportunity to share their views, learn more about the project and give us some idea of the level of support (or otherwise!) within the community is now needed - your opinions/support matter. As so many people are away or otherwise busy during the summer holidays, a meeting in September seems advisable. Please look out for details in September Beacon, on social media and posters around the parish. In the meantime, if you have concerns, ideas or anything else relevant to share with us about this project, even just "I am supportive", please do e-mail **ruth@blackawtoncommunity.com** or phone for a chat **07845 598658**. We really, really do want to hear from you – whether you are for or against this idea!

It is imperative, absolutely necessary, that all parishioners have the opportunity to contribute their concerns, and their ideas for distributing benefits that will eventually be available to improve lives and opportunities here in Blackawton parish, whilst understanding and appreciating the crisis we are facing. Please engage!

The UK remains dangerously underprepared for climate change and its consequences, the threat to national security, food supply, energy security, threats to our infrastructure, and (given the increasing length and severity of recent heat waves) to our health and wellbeing, and potential for economic collapse. The demand for clean energy will only increase with the electrification of transport, home heating and cooling, never mind data centres! Local actions accumulate, will make a difference and could avoid the most severe consequences of climate change.

Let's pause the "Doom and Gloom"

this month's Good News 😊

... and celebrate the good stuff that's going on!

England may not have won the FA World Cup this year, but they played well, reached the semi-final, and behaved well – as did their many fans whether at home or at the games in the USA, an amazing young British tennis player also reached the semi-final at Wimbledon, and our cricket teams do OK occasionally!

There is much else to celebrate. All around the country platoons of volunteers work to help society function well, caring for each other, the environment and the places they call home. Blackawton is not alone in having a functioning, well run, successful Community Shop, a great primary school with volunteers that add great things to the experience of students and teaching staff, groups that take care of sports facilities, village hall, allotments, play parks, community orchard and meadow, a small food bank and a library in the Church, another whose focus is on environment and biodiversity, not to mention an enthusiastic group getting to grips with ways to Save Our Pub! Parish Councils across the country are also manned by volunteers, and the work they do is often not clear to residents but they meet regularly and give up their time to help fix stuff, try to make things run smoothly and they manage a number of assets around the Parish with the aid of the Parish Precept (part of your council tax).

There is no doubt we are facing a potential climate catastrophe, but we can do, and are doing, a lot about that. Do not despair, all the actions taking place across the world do make a difference, and the more we do locally will inspire others to do their part. It really is not **all** "doom and gloom", take heart!

Community composting of garden material

Please, please will everyone that uses this community site adhere to our "opening hours"! The site is operated by volunteers, and we would like a few more, who give up a couple of hours of their time on Sundays to ensure that **only** appropriate material is accepted. A recent attempt to chip/shred twiggy stuff had to be abandoned because stones, iron bars, a leather gardening glove and too much soil, was found buried in the bays. **None** of these are acceptable, and can only have been dumped there outside of our stated opening hours, by people with little or no community spirit; thankfully those folk are rare in Blackawton! We now have no alternative to the time-consuming task of manually chopping material by hand with shears as the risk of damaging any machinery is too great. Please do **not** dump stuff outside of Sundays 10:00 – 12:00!

Sustainable Blackawton

Is there anyone out there willing to help us with Social Media or Website experience? Sustainable Blackawton does have a section within the blackawtoncommunity.com website but this has languished recently with no updates since 2023!

We were very happy to welcome a new member to our recent meeting, and would like more, especially as the potential for projects increases. Our next meeting is at 6.00 pm on **Tuesday 15th September** in the outdoor classroom of Forest School in Blackawton Primary School – all are welcome, we will not pressure you in any way! But are happy to share ideas, experience and any knowledge we may between us possess!

Blackawton WI

from **Sandra Tope**

As the long hot summer continues, members were certainly glad of the air conditioned hall, when we met in June. Our speaker, Fiona, from Collingwood Crafts gave a demonstration using stained glass. The competition for a glass paperweight was won by Sue Taylor, and the Bloom was won by Christine Foot. Congratulations to them both.

A couple of members were able to represent Blackawton WI at the funeral of Pat McLaren in Strete. Although Pat had not been a member for a year or so due to ill health, she had once been an active member, enjoying walks and lunches amongst other things. She will be remembered fondly.

There will be no meeting in the hall in August, instead we will have a picnic at Hole Farm, Dittisham. We hope the sun is still shining by then, and we look forward to an afternoon of good food, games, laughs and good company.

Meetings continue as usual in September, with a representative of Dartmouth Caring coming to speak to us. More details next month...

A WI membership offers the opportunity to meet women in your local area, in person, to make friends and make a difference in the community. New members are always welcomed. For more information call Sue on **01803 712145** or Sandra on **01803 712622**.

Treen

from **Bob Harvey**

It is easy to forget that without trees and timber we would have no paper - no newspapers, no books, not even paper to wipe your bottom. Yet nature made paper before we did. Hornets and bees construct incredibly complex nests of paper, designed so that each cell is aligned perfectly with the centre of the globular, hanging nest.

We recently had a lesson from nature when all the bats disappeared from our Lesser Horseshoe nursery. Then I noticed that hornets had started to build a nest in their roosting loft. We usually get a hornets' nest somewhere each summer, and they're not aggressive, but this was serious as the bats are highly protected - panic! panic! I needn't have worried. The hornets had moved in when the bats were asleep during the day, but when the hornets were asleep at night the bats moved back in and gobbled them all up - a feast in their dormitory! A reminder that nature has ways of sorting itself out - if only we leave it alone.

West Dart Bus

Regular services

from **Claudia Benzies**

The West Dart Community Bus serves the parishes of Blackawton and Dittisham and is available to the whole community - and well-behaved dogs. Journeys are free (and donations welcome). Sit back, enjoy the views, save on fuel, parking & frayed nerves. **Please book by 12 noon the day before;** call **01752 690444** or email **info@ringandrider.net**. Or call Claudia Benzies, Coordinator, on **07712 210300**.

Where possible, passengers can be picked up/dropped off elsewhere on the route by request. (eg. outlying hamlets, Totnes, Paignton, Torbay Hospital, Newton Abbot Hospital, Newton Abbot Station ...)

Timetable for August:

Wednesday 5th	The Willows, Torquay via Totnes
Friday 7th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 14th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 21st	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Wednesday 26th	Newton Abbot via Totnes
Friday 28th	Dartmouth via Dittisham

All trips depart from Blackawton Bus Shelter at 9.30 am. Return trips depart 12.00 to 12.30 pm (as requested by passengers) and arrive in Blackawton between 12.45 and 1.00 pm.

The West Dart Bus seats 16 people and is **available for hire** to local community groups and residents for only £65 + fuel and a volunteer driver – subject to availability. Call Claudia Benzies on **07712 210300**.

Community Shop

from **Kate Purver**

Shop telephone: **01803 712157**. Shop email: **blackawtonshop@gmail.com**
Committee email: **shopsecretary@blackawtoncommunity.com**

Opening times

Shop:	Monday to Friday	8.30 am – 5.00 pm
	Saturday	9.00 am – 1.00 pm
	Sunday	10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Post Office: Monday to Saturday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

We continue to have fresh, local products available to pre-order on a weekly basis:

- Red Hill market garden veg bags: Jonathan's vegetables & herbs are sustainably grown just up the road – tasty, healthy, super-fresh and super-local. (WhatsApp group for ordering);
- Hylsten Bread – artisanal sourdough loaves (also order via WhatsApp group);
- Aune valley meats - see Sue in the shop, or give her a call on 07484 813935.



We are still appealing for **volunteers**! The shop is a friendly, relaxed environment with a great team of people - so why not get involved? All training will be given, you won't have to work alone - support is always available from Sue and our other volunteers. If you're an early riser, we'd hugely appreciate help with the opening-up shift, 7.30 - 9.00 am – when we see in the bread delivery, price and display it, check dates and fridges and get the shop presentable for the day. Or if you'd prefer to be more sociable, serving on the till during opening hours is great for meeting people and having a chat! Please get in touch ... thank you!



Wines of the Month

Kumala Cape Classic White, South Africa

This delicious new white is a tropical sensation! Easy-drinking and excellent value. Made mainly from Chenin Blanc grapes, it's fresh and lightly floral on the nose, with hints of apple, white pear, pineapple and tropical fruit. Light-bodied, crisp, dry & refreshing – ideal with seafood, roast chicken and summer salads.

Makulu Pinotage Rosé, South Africa

From South Africa's Western Cape, this is a beautifully-crafted wine. Its lovely rose-gold. colour, delicate notes of red berries & melon bouquet, and vibrant palate with notes of caramelised figs make it a summer delight.

August's **featured local artist** is Amanda Hocking, a needle-felting artist based in the village. Her work 'paints' with wool, using a special barbed needle to transform raw, loose fibres of merino wool into unique 2D landscapes, 3D felted figures and jewellery - inspired by the sea and our lovely South Hams countryside. She will take on commissions for a specific scene or pet portrait. Come in and take a look!

Red Hill Market Garden grows and supplies fresh, organically produced vegetables throughout the year in Blackawton.

Seasonal Vegetable Bags are available to order for **£12.95**. We deliver to Blackawton Community Shop every Thursday.

Order on a weekly basis - no subscription required.

To find out more please contact Jonathan on

07747 412274 or at **redhillmarketgarden@gmail.com**



Village Hall

Blackawton Horticultural Show

... will be at 2.30 pm on **Saturday 12th September** in the Village Hall. (This is the right date.)

The schedule was attached to the back of the July Beacon - please detach it and keep it if you can. There will be more copies in the Shop and on the Village Hall website. Please have a look at it - there are some changes from previous years - and have a good summer gardening, taking photographs, drawing, sewing, making jam etc. etc. ready for September.

August events

Save Our Pub - Pig Racing

Friday 21st August. Details TBC.

No weekly classes in August

Community composting

every Sunday, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm.

Please only add compost to the bays when a volunteer is present. **No fly tipping.** Some things can't be recycled through small composting systems like ours e.g. woody material greater than 1 inch (2.5 cm) diameter, pernicious weeds such as bindweed, Japanese Knotweed, Ground Elder, Phormium, Cordyline, Bamboo and, of course stones, metal or plastic objects.

Car parking

Quite a few cars regularly use the Village Hall car park and normally this is not a problem but when there is an event at the hall the committee request that you park elsewhere. The only date this month is the evening of Friday 21st August.

Booking the Village Hall

The best way to check availability and make a provisional booking of the Village Hall is to use the interactive calendar at the bottom of the page on the community website **blackawtoncommunity.com/community-page/blackawton-village-hall**. This page also gives an overview of our facilities and hire rates for various types of event, as well as a link to the Conditions of Hire. If you don't have internet access, please fill in a booking form (available in the shop or the notice board next to the hall door) and drop it into the post box on the wall of the hall. The post box is checked weekly.

Please don't make any commitments until you receive confirmation that it has been accepted. Should an election be called, Thursday bookings are subject to cancellation with full refund of any hall fees already paid. All bookings require a security deposit.

Hirers please remember that time to set up and clear down must be included in your booking request as there may be another event immediately before and/or after your booking. Overrunning will result in part or all of your security deposit being withheld to cover refunds to the additional time and any refunds that have to be issued to other hirers if their booking is affected. The Conditions of Hire that you agree to when requesting the booking states that all rubbish must be removed from the hall and the hall left clean and tidy, please make sure that everyone involved in running your event knows and understands this. Due to these conditions being ignored recently, a minimum of £20 of your deposit will be retained if any rubbish is left and this will increase if the hall is not left clean and tidy, to cover extra cleaning costs.

Blackawton School

Thank you Blackawton!

from **Vicky Harris**

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has generously donated plants, pots, bulbs, seeds, and gardening supplies throughout the year. Your kindness and support have helped transform our garden into a vibrant, colourful space that the whole community can enjoy. The garden has been alive with a wonderful dazzle, buzz and flutter this season. We've been delighted to see beautiful butterflies, evening moths, busy bees, and a variety of small birds, many of which have made their homes in our new bird boxes. It is wonderful to see the garden thriving as a haven for both wildlife and our Blackawton children.

We are incredibly grateful for your generosity, whether you've donated plants, divided and shared your favourites, or simply given heartfelt appreciation or lent a helping hand. Every contribution has helped continue commitment to our garden and enabling it to flourish and encourage more biodiversity.

Thanks to the fantastic support of Ruth Coe, gardening club and the community. We are also proud to announce our achievement of receiving our **RHS Level 4 Award** — a wonderful milestone that reflects the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. We're looking forward to celebrating together at a Community Harvest Event that will be held in the garden this autumn, where we'll mark the season's successes and enjoy the fruits of everyone's efforts.

As the garden continues to grow, we are always grateful for donations of gardening equipment. If you have any hoses, complete water butts, watering cans, or other garden supplies that you no longer need, we would be delighted to give them a new home.

Parish Council

The Thoughts of Chairman Rake

from **Simon Rake**

The Great Devon Break-Off

On Thursday 16 July — though 1 April might have been more appropriate — the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Steve Reed, announced that he had selected the Plymouth and Exeter proposal from the five submitted for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Devon.

The Plymouth & Exeter proposal will split the county into four new unitary authorities: 'Greater' Plymouth; 'Greater' Exeter; 'Greater' Torbay; and... the rest. Parts of existing districts will be carved off to justify the liberal use of 'Greater' in the first three. Here in the South Hams, that means 13 parishes being subsumed into Plymouth (stretching as far east as Ivybridge) and five parishes on the eastern banks of the Dart joining the new Torbay unitary. For us in Blackawton, this means we will have a different local council from our near neighbours in Kingswear, while sharing one with Ilfracombe and Axminster. Clearly, in this topsy-turvy new world, the word 'local' joins 'Greater' in being stripped of any real meaning.

In the Minister's statement and subsequent letter to Council leaders there was much brave chatter about how this choice would unleash growth in Plymouth, Exeter and Torbay. There was passing mention of Town and Parish Councils (which are not directly affected) and a brief nod towards Neighbourhood Committees (which may or may not happen). There was, however, nothing at all about how these changes might benefit those of us who live in 'the rest' of Devon — which, given that this will be the largest of the new Councils, seems like a surprising omission.

Compared with the other proposals submitted, the chosen scheme will require far more complicated dismantling and reassembly of the services currently provided by District and County Councils. Given that these include care for the most vulnerable adults and children in our communities, this is something we simply cannot afford to get wrong. Adding unnecessary complexity hardly seems the wisest course.

No one has yet said where the new Devon Council (as 'the rest' is to be imaginatively named) will meet or have its offices. I have suggested the car park at Cullompton Services on the M5: it minimises everyone's travel time and has a handy Costa, although we might need to give some thought to what we do when it rains. Let's hope Costa has some umbrellas outside.

Delivering Council services is widely recognised as more difficult and expensive in rural areas. Take waste collection, for example. It is easy to see how much less efficient it is, on a per-household basis, to empty the bins at Woodford, Clyston and Hutterleigh than it would be to collect from the same length of road lined on both sides with terraced houses. The same challenge is repeated across almost every Council service and throughout the whole of the new authority area.

So why such a blunder? To my mind there are two possible explanations: one relatively innocent, the other rather more cynical. The first explanation is that the Government genuinely believes cities are the sole engines of economic growth. I disagree. Modern patterns of work mean villages and market towns can grow just as successfully. Yet even if the Government is right, it leaves Devon Council as little more than a backwater: a provider of costly rural services rather than an engine of growth. The second, more cynical, explanation is that this was a nakedly political decision. Plymouth and Exeter are, for the time being, Labour-run cities. You can draw your own conclusions.

The whole process has left me feeling frustrated and angry. Fortunately, the 3rd Great British Rake Off (advertised separately in this issue) will give me the chance to work out my anger through physical labour, and I hope to be back to my normal sunny self next month. Please do join the Rake Off if you can, and whether you can or not, enjoy your summer.

Blackawton Parish Council meeting

from **Annette Thom**

Notes of the Monthly Meeting of Blackawton Parish Council held on Monday 13th July 2026 at 7.30 pm in Blackawton Village Hall. Complete minutes can be read at **www.blackawtoncommunity.com** or the parish noticeboard.

Present: BPC and SHDC Cllr Rake, BPC Cllrs Coe, Hadow, Luckens, Oughton, and Thomas were present, as was Clerk A Thom. There were two members of the public present.

Open Forum

Use of the Blackawton Cemetery Shed. The possible use of the shed to store some Wormcharming Festival equipment was discussed. This may be feasible. A proposal can be considered by BPC in its next meeting, on 14 September 2026.

Blackawton Play-park. A member of the Playing Fields Committee discussed the current project for replacement and renewal of the playground equipment. There are two available S.106 fund pots, of £1,000 and of £20,000. The latter is allocated to use for the tennis court or a skate park, and there would be legal costs to reallocate those funds. The legal costs would come out of the S.106 funds. Cllr Rake will discuss the options with staff at SHDC.

Councillors Forum

Proposal for Alteration of the Schedule to cut back vegetation growing on the Blackawton Churchyard Walls. A reduction from two annual cuts to one cut was proposed for possible habitat benefit. This will be an Agenda item on 14 September 2026.

Ragwort growing inside and outside Blackawton Churchyard. Ragwort has been identified. The meeting was asked whether it is notifiable.

Annual Community Cut in the Blackawton Churchyard. Sustainable Blackawton members who are interested in being involved have requested this year's dates.

Report from South Hams District Council Councillor

SHDC Cllr Rake reported that the Government's decision about the Local Government Reorganisation option it has chosen for Devon is expected on Thursday 16 July, with a briefing for Cllrs on Wednesday 15 July. Allocation of assets and liabilities and splitting adult social services and children's services will be

complicated, particularly if the expanded Plymouth and Exeter option is chosen. That option's expanded Torbay wasn't consulted on. Cllr Rake recommended attendance at SHDC's Town & Parish Council Briefing on 24/9/26 about the new Planning decision-making process being imposed on SHDC.

Planning Applications

SHDC new applications. The following were noted for information. BPC is not a statutory consultee.

1703/26/ARC Development At SX 8052 5109 Town Farm School Lane Blackawton. Application for approval of details reserved by condition 20 (Traffic Management Plan) of planning consent 3878/18/VAR.

1611/26/COM Road to Cornish Post Farm Blackawton TQ9 7AW. Notice of intent to install electronic communication apparatus comprising 21 wooden poles at 9mtrs high (Ref: WH3MKFoB).

The following premises licence application was noted. Comments have closed. No extraordinary meeting was considered necessary to comment: variation application to a premises licence (SHPL0458) from Steven Hanson, Woodlands Leisure Park, Blackawton, Totnes, TQ9 7DQ.

French Furze Development

Cllr Oughton reported that the planned public residents meeting happened on 17/6/26 and that the meeting was told that the developer has missed the target date for submission of the Section 73 Application to SHDC. The target date was 18/5/26 and is now 3/8/26. He reported that the meeting was told by the developer that the snagging items for the business units are complete. However Cllrs Rake and Thomas are the Business Units CIC Directors and said that they have carried out a recent site visit and no further progress has been made with that work. Cllr Oughton also reported that the French Furze public meeting was told that the Business Units CIC Directors withdrew from a handover meeting scheduled for 17/6/26. However the Directors (Cllrs Rake and Thomas) said that they were only invited to that meeting with a day's notice, and were not able to be available due to the short notice. It was agreed to write to the developer about what appear to be misrepresentations.

Cllr Rake reported that because there are no major snags left to complete in the Business Units, if the expected £20,0000 grant is received from SHDC it is proposed to accept handover of the Business Units as is, in order to be able to progress and have the Business Units used.

Wind Turbine Feasibility Study

Cllr Coe discussed the Steering Group's Report to the Parish Council on the project. There are ten landowners related to the sites shortlisted for more detailed assessment. Eight of those were known to the Steering Group (SG) and initial contact has been made by the SG with them. Seven of those landowners expressed interest. Those seven and the two landowners not known to members of the SG will be sent a landowners pack for their consideration. The SG has requested from the Study provider a list of project documents, confirmation of access protocols, and further detail about what is involved in some elements of Work Package 1. A Community information meeting might take place in September 2026. The SG is also discussing an offer of community engagement help from Energy Learning Network (three days assistance over the next six months).

Stonemason Works to the Blackawton Churchyard Walls

The meeting noted that the works commence on Monday 27 July, with Park Lane followed by Main Street, and will take a total of approximately four weeks. Cllrs will discuss the works with residents opposite the Main Street site, where the road will be narrowed.

Bus Shelter at Woodlands

It was noted that two panes of glass have been broken in the northbound bus shelter and their replacement is being investigated. The Clerk has asked the provider of the bus shelter for a price to replace the glass and to reinstall the external sign on the southbound shelter. As no reply has been received and their provisional timelines were long, the Clerk will contact local glaziers instead.

Finance

Current Financial Position. The meeting received the Reports, which show total funds of £75,473.65 and an unearmarked general fund of £25,344.00 at 30 June; the Bank Reconciliation was signed.

Payments. It was resolved to authorise the following payments:

Clerk June Expenses Reimbursement	£72.58
Devon Association of Local Councils Bespoke Council Training	£321.12
Devon Association of Local Councils AI for Councils Training	£42.00
Grounds Maintenance cuts 10 and 23 June 2026: Churchyard	£210.00
& Cemetery	£228.00

The following payments authorised since the last monthly meeting were noted:

Bus Shelter Cleans March 2026	£252.00
Website annual hosting	£115.00

Grant Requested from BPC. It was resolved to approve the request from the Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association (West Dart Bus) for the budgeted grant of £300.

Receipts. The receipt of a grant of £2,000 from South Hams District Council towards the restoration of the gates of St Michael's Churchyard was noted.

Review of Data Protection Compliance

The ongoing data audit was noted. The Action Items in the Clerk's Report were addressed by the meeting. It was agreed that in BPC's situation it is not necessary to appoint a Data Information Officer to respond to requests in the Clerk's absence. Cllrs and Steering Group Committee members will be given checklists to complete and return. It was noted by one Cllr that with the use of cloud folders to provide documents, they no longer need to download documents to their own devices. The meeting agreed to start with automated deletion of Cllr old emails two years or older, and that the Clerk would find out if this could be done centrally. The Clerk is obtaining further advice on the specific data protection legal basis for some of the Parish Council's activities. It was resolved to approve the reviewed/new: Privacy Policy, Public Privacy Notice, and Role Holder Privacy Notice. It was noted that management of data protection is always an ongoing project.

Correspondence

The following were noted or considered:

- SHDC Joint Local Plan: Notice of scoping consultation to gather views from 16/7/26-14/9/26 & forthcoming consultation. Cllr Rake noted that a draft Plan will start to have weight in planning decisions and will aid the new authority (which will be formed as a result of the current Local Government Reorganisation). SHDC can't meet the Government's new housing supply requirements and this is the best method of protection.
- Invitation South Devon National Landscape Partnership meeting, 17/7/26 10 am Hybrid.
- Invitation SHDC Town & Parish Council Briefing: Planning Decision-Making 24/9/26 5.00 pm online.
- Invitation Scribifest 2026 Online Conference for Town, Parish and Community Councils 17/9/26, 9.30 am - 4.00 pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall on **Monday 14th September** at 7.30 pm. You are most welcome to join the meeting and raise any issues which may be of concern to you.

Council contacts

Cllr Ruth Coe	07845 598658	ruth@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Sue Hadow	07306 007681	sue@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Rob Luckens	07949 179872	rob@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Chris Oughton, Vice chair	01803 302487	chriso@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Simon Rake, Chair	01803 861129	simon@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Steve Thomas	01803 712840	steve@blackawtoncommunity.com
Annette Thom, Parish Clerk	07979 391442	parishclerk@blackawtoncommunity.com
Tree Wardens, Will Benzies	07583 599452	(& Bob Harvey)

Other contacts

South Hams Cllr Simon Rake	01803 861129	Cllr.Simon.Rake@southhams.gov.uk
South Hams District Council	01803 861234	customer.services@southhams.gov.uk
SHDC emergency out of hours	01803 867034	
Devon County Cllr Julian Brazil	01548 511109	julian.brazil@devon.gov.uk
	07970 971140	
Devon County Council	0345 155 1015	customer@devon.gov.uk
Police non-urgent reporting	101	101@dc.police.uk
or online form at www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/your-area/teams/Dartmouth/Contact		

There are **Report It** buttons on www.blackawtoncommunity.com to report problems to DCC (eg. highway issues such as potholes and flooding) and SHDC (eg. planning enforcement, missed waste collection, fly tipping, and abandoned vehicles)

the Wider Community

Celebrating CHSW Dart Art Day

from **Ann Green**

It was a gloriously sunny 4th July for our annual Dart Art Day which was a huge success due to our stall holders, volunteers and loyal local supporters. We raised a total of £3,217 for the charity dear to our hearts, Children's Hospice South West, which provides essential specialist care and support to families with life-limited children throughout the South West. This amount included a donation of £500 from BRNC Charities Committee, £170 from the 20 Maritime Regiment RCT Veterans Association, along with a number of personal donations.

It was a great example of the Dartmouth community at its best with help from the Officer Cadets of BRNC, local musicians Viki Philp, Al Bovey and The Dancing Beggars. As usual homemade refreshments, tombola stalls and the raffle of a handmade quilt by Denise Gallagher of Chillington, were all gifted by volunteers and supporters.

Our next events are in Royal Avenue Gardens supporting River Dart Rotary on Saturday 8th August and Dartmouth Rotary on 13th August. More coming together!

Arts and Crafts Exhibition and Sale

St James the Great, Slapton

Saturday 29th to Monday 31st August, 10 am to 5 pm

Free entry ~ Refreshments 2 pm to 5 pm each day

Demonstrations ~ Everyone welcome

Dartmouth Caring

from **April Faulkner**

At the end of July, we said a fond farewell and "happy retirement" to Manager Nick Hindmarsh, who has led Dartmouth Caring for 10 years. Nick shared with trustees, staff and volunteers that leading our charity and been an honour and a privilege, and the best role he'd ever had. We all wish Nick the very best as he embarks on some adventurous travel plans and time with his family.

We are delighted to share that Evie Rogers joins Dartmouth Caring as CEO. Evie has worked in healthcare for many years. Dartmouth has been Evie's home for the past 15 years, so she has a deep appreciation of the strong community spirit here, and is passionate about strengthening the services that make a difference to everyday lives.

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from the Editor

The Beacon is produced monthly and distributed to over 300 houses in the village and surrounding area. Email **beacon@blackawtoncommunity.com** if you would like a copy to be delivered to you. You can also ask to receive the Beacon by email.

Please send your Beacon contributions by email to **beacon@blackawtoncommunity.com**. Contributions on paper can be posted to, or dropped off at, 1 The Cross, Park Lane, Blackawton, TQ9 7BD. The deadline for the September edition is **Friday 21st August**.

If you would like to make a donation, please put **Beacon** on the outside of the envelope and put it in the Church's donation box beside the visitors book, or drop it off at 1, The Cross, Park Lane. Please note that cheques must be payable to **Blackawton Parish Church**. Thank you.

Andrew Morrow

Parish Diary

August 2026

Sunday 2nd	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
Wednesday 5th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to The Willows via Totnes	Bus shelter
Friday 7th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Sunday 9th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
Friday 14th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Sunday 16th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
Friday 21st	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
		Save Our Pub - Pig Racing	Village Hall
		Beacon deadline for September edition	
Saturday 22nd	10.00 am	The Great British Rake Off	Churchyard
Sunday 23rd	10.00 am	The Great British Rake Off	Churchyard
	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
Wednesday 26th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Newton Abbot via Totnes	Bus shelter
Friday 28th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 29th to Monday 31st	10.00 am	Arts and Crafts Exhibition and Sale	St James the Great, Slapton
Sunday 30th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall