



# Blackawton Beacon

## December 2023

published jointly by the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council



**We wish all our readers  
a Happy Christmas!**





# CHRISTMAS RAFFLE



All proceeds to Dartmouth Academy and Blackawton Primary School

**LOTS OF PRIZES!!**

Shop hamper, Red Hill Market Garden veg bag,  
Bottle of Prosecco, Chocolates

Tickets on sale at the shop **£1 per ticket**  
Draw on Friday 15th December 2023 at 4.00 pm

**THANK YOU!**



## Blackawton Carol Singers

### Monday 18th December



The Blackawton Christmas Choir will be carol singing around the village from 6.00 pm. Our route will be from The Grove up to French Furze and then down into the centre of the village.

Final performance at the **Church Lychgate** at **7.30 pm**

Do come and listen and **join in!** ~ Collection for local charities.

*It's not too late to join the choir – come along to Orchard House,  
Vicarage Road at 7.30 pm on any Monday for a good sing!*

# St Michael's Church

## Services for December

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>
Sunday 3rd	9.30 am	Morning Worship
Advent Sunday	6.30 pm	Advent Carol Service (United Benefice)
Sunday 10th	9.30 am	Holy Communion (by extension)
Sunday 17th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 20th	7.00 pm	Christmas Carol Service
Sunday 24th	9.30 am	Scratch Nativity Play
Christmas Eve		<i>at the Lych Gate (in church if wet)</i>
Monday 25th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Christmas Day		
Sunday 31st	11.00 am	Holy Communion (United Benefice)
	5.00 pm	<i>at St Peter's, Stoke Fleming</i> Christingle Service

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**.

## Advent and Christmas

### You are welcome at all of these services.

At the **Advent Carol Service**, light will gradually come into a dark church.

The **Christmas Carol Service** is candlelit, with familiar and less familiar readings, and lots of opportunity to sing carols, and with mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

The **Scratch** (unrehearsed) **Nativity Play** is for adults and children. Come dressed as a nativity characters, or not, and we will fit you in!

On **New Year's Eve** you can make your own **Christingle** to light the church, and then take it home.

### Christmas Children's craft morning

from Rosemary U'Ren

**Wednesday 20th December, 10.00 to 12.00 am**

St Michael's Church

For children 3-11 years old. A free activity with plenty of crafts and refreshments.

For more information contact Rosemary on **01548 521278**.

There is still 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.**

The **Community Library** is inside the Church, usually open during the day.

## From the registers

Sunday 5th November      Baptism of Mollie Hutchings  
Monday 6th November      Funeral of Jack Aspden

## Vicar's letter

from **Rev'd Matt Gorton**

As we move through this season of advent, we find ourselves looking to what is often referred to as 'the greatest story of all time'. Something I wholeheartedly agree with. A story that has transcended cultures and time. Yet when I look to the Christmas story and how can I this year make it fresh I always get a little anxious. Now the obvious answer to some of you would be, it's your first year here, just use something that you have done before. We won't have heard it. This has crossed my mind but I'm not a fan of rehashing old stuff as it's amazing how quickly things/thoughts can become outdated. Our world moves at such a pace.

But yet each year God reveals the story to me anew. To be honest I should probably stop being surprised by this given it's an annual occurrence, but after 22 years in ministry and sharing the Christmas story I am still surprised. A story that people long to hear each year, something familiar and reassuring, a story that has adventure, beauty, love. A story that has so many unbelievable plot twists, yet the people involved (for the most part) are just your average men and women who you could pass in the street and not think twice about. This story that sees heaven and earth collide and become one in a way it had never done so before. The awesome power of the creator God wrapped in the most vulnerable flesh possible, a newborn baby. A baby who could create and destroy the universe with one hand yet with the other squeezed the little finger of Mary.

The greatest part of this whole story? The fact it's not a story of a mythical creature or fairytale, it's the start of Jesus' autobiography, no fiction. The history books back it up (handy thing about a census happening when you're born) and if it wasn't true, I think cultures over the centuries would have let it fade away. But here we are 2000 odd years later, looking forward to gathering once more with those we love, to sing songs about this story, and to hear of this great gift given to us as the ultimate sacrifice of love. So, as we go through this Christmas season, what will God show you anew from the greatest story ever told?

## Our church team

Churchwardens    Kate Janman 01803 712362  
Chris Janman 01803 712362

Lay Readers    Frank Robinson 01803 712249  
Lyn Robinson    01803 712249

# Village Life



## Advance Notice "Sleeping Beauty" in the Village Hall

**on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024**

BADS are busy rehearsing Sleeping Beauty – and having fun doing it!

We are watching the Village Hall roof repairs with baited breath –  
we may have to change either the dates or the venue.

Watch this space ...

For more information contact: Kate Janman [kate.janman@gmail.com](mailto:kate.janman@gmail.com) 01803 712362.

## Blackawton WI

from **Sandra Tope**

Our speaker this month was Elizabeth Hulme with a talk titled 'My life in the Law'. It was a fascinating insight into her life where she started working in the school holidays at Mr Kipling's factory, joining the police force and working her way up to working as a prosecutor for the CPS. She had many amusing tales to tell, and we were all engrossed for the entire time. She then judged the competition of a trio of iced buns, which was won by Sandra Tope and the Bloom of the month, won by Valerie Harding.

Last month our Book Club read *Career of Evil* by Robert Galbraith. Although a bit gruesome in places everyone seemed to enjoy the plot, characterisation and left wanting to read the next instalment of this series. This month's book is *The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter* by Hazel Gaynor. A different type of book, based on a true story. We look forward to hearing everyone's point of view at the next meeting.

We don't have a meeting in December, having a Christmas lunch instead, so our next proper meeting will be in January. Details to follow next month. So a Merry Christmas to all members, past and present! For more information, please ring Sue **01803 712145** or Sandra **01803 712622**.

## Sustainable Blackawton

from **Ruth Coe**

Let's make Blackawton hedgehog friendly  
Please see the flyer attached to this Beacon.

## Mobile Library

from **Heidi McCoy**, Libraries Unlimited

Libraries Unlimited operates a mobile library service which brings books for you to borrow to the village every 4 weeks. The new mobile library van makes 80 stops around the South Hams and West Devon each week, joining the four others in the Libraries Unlimited fleet. Mobile libraries were always important, but the pandemic has shown how vital a connection they are to so many people.

The next visit to Blackawton will be on **Tuesday 12th December** at 11.55 am, at the bus shelter.

For further information and full contact details please visit our web page **librariesunlimited.org.uk**.

## West Dart Community Bus



The bus is **available for hire** to local community groups and residents for only £55 + fuel. Maybe there are other events people in Blackawton would like to attend. Let us know in advance and we will try to organise a bus service. Call Claudia Benzies on **07712 210300** or Dave Hawkes **07803 017521**.

### Regular services

Journeys are free (and donations welcome). Sit back, enjoy the views, save on fuel, parking & frayed nerves. Please book to ensure the bus does come for you; call **01752 690444** or email **info@ringandride.net**.

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 December:

Friday 1st	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Wednesday 6th	The Willows, Torquay via Totnes
Friday 8th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 15th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Wednesday 20th	Newton Abbot via Totnes
Friday 22nd	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 29th	Dartmouth via Dittisham

All trips depart from Blackawton Village Hall at 9.25 am, Blackawton Bus Shelter at 9.30 am. Return trips depart at 12.30 pm and arrive in Blackawton about 1.00 pm.

# Blackawton Primary School

from **Lorna Churchill**

What a busy month November has been for Blackawton School! The children have enjoyed some wild and windy slightly disrupted weeks at Forest School with some new learning opportunities. Children in Nursery and Class 2 enjoyed the story of Tattybogle, the scarecrow who grew into a beautiful tree, and had fun creating their own Tattybogle from sticks, fabric and windfall apples. We also made some bird feeders to feed the birds who visit Forest School - popping corn over the campfire was an exciting part of the session!

A special outdoor service for Remembrance Sunday was held and the whole school observed a silence. Across all classes the children considered the impact of war and all that was fought for.

For Anti-bullying Week, the second week in November, the whole school looked at the impact of bullying and individual behaviours which affect others. The children came to school in 'odd socks' as part of the programme to raise awareness and understand the difference between 'banter' and bullying.

Blackawton school raised over £120 for Children in Need by dressing up in either Spotty or Sporty clothes for the day. Many of the children have also participated in sending a shoebox filled with Christmas presents for another child across the world.

All the children at the school had a brilliant day with a special visit from children's author Tom McLaughlin. He visited classes and the children engaged with his workshops with enthusiasm. We have learnt lots about how to overcome adversity to become an author and illustrator. Very inspiring!

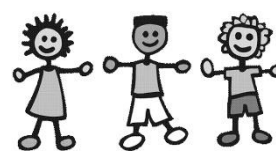
Preparations are underway for Christmas and the whole school is looking forward to the Candlelit Christmas service in the church on the **14th December**. Please come along to sing and celebrate with us.

### Our school lottery is now live and OPEN to ALL!

You can win up to £25,000 in the weekly draw. Tickets cost just £1.00. 50% of sales go directly to Blackawton School. 10% goes to other good causes in the South Hams. Its a great way to show support for the school and have a bit of fun! There is even a Super draw to win £1000 of John Lewis Vouchers. Go to **[www.seamoorlotto.co.uk](http://www.seamoorlotto.co.uk)** and search for **Blackawton School**.



**Blackawton Nursery Stay and Play**  
Tuesday mornings from 9.30 to 11.00 am  
**Nursery Hut at Blackawton School**  
Playing / Arts & Crafts / Making Friends



A session of fun and educational activities for you and your child(ren). Led by Jo Mitchell, our Nursery Leader. Refreshments provided for children and adults (£1 donation).

## Community Shop

from **Kate Purver**

Shop telephone: **01803 712157**. Email: **[blackawtonshop@gmail.com](mailto:blackawtonshop@gmail.com)**.

### Usual 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

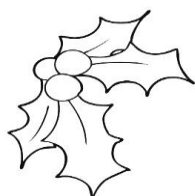
### Christmas and New Year opening times

Christmas Eve	Sunday 24th December	10.00 am – 12.00 noon, shop only
Christmas Day	Monday 25th December	<b>closed</b>
Boxing Day	Tuesday 26th December	<b>closed</b>
New Year's Day	Monday 1st January	10.00 am – 12.00 noon, shop only

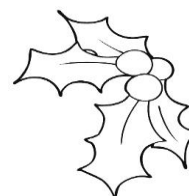
Thank you to all those who came out for Halloween on a very soggy night! We served some delicious hot punch and raised £70 from your generous donations, all of which went to support Blackawton Fireworks.



### Festive drinks at the Community Shop – Friday 15 December



Please join us between midday and 4 pm for a (free!)  
glass of hot mulled cider or apple juice.  
Everyone is welcome!



We'll also be drawing our **Christmas Raffle at 4 pm**.  
There's still time to buy a ticket!

For all your gift-sending needs: we have Christmas cards, wrapping paper, ribbons and gift bags – alongside sticky tape, plastic-free padded envelopes and other useful stationery bits & pieces. And we have a range of gifts, from Traidcraft and local producers along with toys and children's crafts.

## Wines of the Month

we have two featured wines this month – to get you in the mood for the festive season!

### Rewild Sauvignon Blanc – Chile, £8.95

A vibrant Sauvignon Blanc with aromas of citrus and tropical fruit. Refreshing on the palate, with ripe nectarine and fresh herb flavours and a fruity, mouth-watering finish. This white will stand up to many Christmas dishes, from salmon to turkey!

*One tree is planted for every bottle of wine sold – in partnership with Ecologi, who fund global reforestation projects to help combat climate change and contribute to ecosystem restoration.*



### Côtes du Rhône Chassaux & Fils 2022 – France, £7.50

A graceful nose with subtle hints of dried flowers, black fruit and a pinch of warming spice; on the palate, silky and elegant with refined bursts of soft red fruits. Delicious! An absolute winner for Christmas drinking, and at a winning price.

#### WEEKLY SEASONAL VEGETABLE BAGS:

Fresh veg bags to order from **£10.95** delivered to Blackawton Community Shop every Thursday. Payable on collection at the till.

If you would like to find out more please leave your contact details at the shop or contact Jonathan & Kaede:

07747 412274

redhillmarketgarden@gmail.com

#### ABOUT US:

Red Hill Market Garden grows and supplies fresh, sustainably produced vegetables year round in Blackawton.

We don't use artificial fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides and ensure our packaging is 100% home compostable and plastic free.



## Village Hall

### Village Hall Update

Due to weather conditions affecting the repairs the Village will remain unavailable throughout January, the hall committee apologise for any inconvenience this causes. By the time that you read this the existing roof timbers should be removed and the new ones in place.

Thanks are due to the skilled local craftsmen who are carrying out the work often in atrocious weather conditions and mostly on a voluntary basis, and the local builders who are supplying the materials and equipment at cost.

If you are planning an event, or have a regular booking which you think would fit into church, ask Kate Janman (ring **01803 712362** or email **kate.janman@gmail.com**). Or if you think the school hall would be more suitable, contact Helen Hurrell (**helen.hurrell@educationsouthwest.org.uk**) who deals with out-of-school-hours bookings.

## Parish Council

### The Thoughts of Chairman Rake

from **Simon Rake**

#### Talking rubbish – so no change there

The questionnaires on the application to register The George Inn as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) have been safely gathered in, the responses tallied and the comments read. Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond – we received 95 replies, outstripping the numbers from other recent surveys by some distance. On the two key questions – how important is it to keep the George and do you support its

designation as an ACV – there was very broad agreement. Ninety-five percent of respondents put the importance of keeping the George at five (out of five), and eighty-eight percent supported the designation. In addition, large numbers indicated that they would be willing to provide practical and financial support, if the possibility ever became a reality. As a result, the Parish Council agreed at its November meeting to move on to the next stage of the process and submit the application to South Hams District Council.

It is also worth noting that a number of people raised concerns about just how practical it would be for the community to own and/or manage the pub, some of them citing the difficulties faced by similar ventures nearby. These are real and valid concerns, but as I explained last month the ACV process is designed precisely to give the community time, in the event of the George being put up for sale, to consider whether or not such difficulties can be addressed. For the time being, with news that new tenants are due to take on the George in mid-December, we probably need to focus on translating all the goodwill and support that was revealed in the questionnaires into real welcome and support for them in their new venture.

And so to rubbish. South Hams District Council is introducing the new recycling collection regime across the district from 20 November. You should have received your recycling containers and a letter giving details of your new collection day. A lot of work has gone into making the introduction as smooth as possible, although some teething problems will be inevitable. Recycling collections will be weekly, and more things will be collected for recycling (glass, batteries, etc.) with 'black bin' collections fortnightly as at present. Please read carefully all the various documentation on what can and can't be collected. As a District Councillor, I have a 'hotline' to the Waste Team, so if you do have problems, please do let me know (cllr.simon.rake@southhams.gov.uk).

As ever, it is important to remember that although recycling is a jolly good thing, it is only the third layer of the 'waste hierarchy': reduce, re-use, recycle. Much as we want to support residents in the ability to recycle, we are also relying on everyone to do as much as they can to reduce and re-use.

Last, but by no means least, I am very happy to announce that you now have a full Parish Council. Since the elections in May, when only four candidates stood as Parish Councillors, we have slowly come up to full strength, and at our November meeting we were delighted to co-opt Rob Luckens as our seventh member. Welcome Rob!

And with that good news, it only remains for me to wish you the happiest of Christmases (remember that sparkly wrapping paper can't be recycled so maybe consider other options), and the best of New Years.

## **Blackawton Parish Council meeting**

from **Annette Thom**, Parish Clerk

Notes of the Meeting of Blackawton Parish Council held on Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 7.30 pm in St Michael's Church, Blackawton. Complete minutes can be read at [www.blackawtoncommunity.com](http://www.blackawtoncommunity.com) or the parish noticeboard.

### **Open Forum**

No members of the public present.

**Present:** Parish & South Hams District Cllr Rake (Chair), Parish Cllrs Oughton (Vice-Chair), Coe, Hadow, Luckens, and Thomas were present, as was Devon County Cllr Brazil (for his report), and A Thom (Clerk).

### **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mardon.

### **Vacancy for a Parish Councillor .**

It was resolved to co-opt Robert Luckens to fill the vacant position.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Coe declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the Agenda item about the registration of The George Inn as an Asset of Community Value.

### **Report from South Hams District Council Councillor**

Cllr Rake reported that all residents are receiving letters about the changes to waste collections commencing in the week starting Monday 20 November. So far the project is on schedule. The feedback from those already on the new waste system is that it is liked on the whole. Please let Cllr Rake know if you encounter a problem so that he can help.

### **Report from Devon County Council Councillor**

DCC Cllr Brazil discussed the road closure at East Charleton and the upcoming closure at Stoke Fleming from January to March next year where a wall which fell down is repaired.

There is a Slapton Line discussion meeting in December. Cllr Brazil hopes that DCC will propose a planning application for a hard defence of the Line. The work would need central funding. The proposed stopping of the mobile library service is being considered by the DCC Cabinet tomorrow and is likely to be approved.

## Planning Applications

### SHDC Planning Decisions

The following decisions were noted:

- 2729/23/FUL Blackawton Village Hall Vicarage Road Blackawton TQ9 7AY. Replacement roof. **Conditional Approval.**
- 2778/23/TPO Wadstray House Blackawton TQ9 7DE. T1: Ash - fell due to evidence of dieback - due to proximity to house. **Tree Works Allowed.**
- 2052/23/ARC Proposed Development at SX 8074 5071 Land at Greenslade Road, Blackawton TQ9 7BP. Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 10 (Facing Materials), 11 (Slates), 12 (Stonework Panel) and 16 (Boundary Treatment) of planning consent 1972/17/FUL. **Discharge of condition Approved.**

### Review of New Applications

- 3382/23/PDM Land at SX 801 505 Blackawton. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural buildings/barns to 2No dwellinghouses (class C3) & for associated development (Class Q (a+b)) For information only.

## Consultations

- SHDC Public Space Protection Orders for dog control in the District. Closes 14/11/23
  - SHDC Council Tax Reduction Scheme Review, Closes 28/11/23
  - Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, Level of Council Tax contribution, Closes 30/11/23
  - DCC, Call for sites: EV charging Parish & Community car parks in Devon, Closes 17/11/23
- Cllrs may comment individually. No Parish Council comment made. The Clerk will resend the call for EV sites to Cllr Coe for the Hall.

## Registering The George Inn as an Asset of Community Value

Cllr Coe left the room. The text survey responses have been redacted, mainly to remove personal data (to comply with GDPR). Cllrs supported the public circulation of the redacted responses. It was agreed that it is now appropriate to implement the decision to submit an application to SHDC. Cllr Thomas discussed the questionnaire process as a learning process. 95 were received in total, 37 online and 58 on paper forms. Most paper returns came from the shop - 41 of the 58 paper forms returned. We printed 180 forms, 77 were taken and not returned. Mandatory online questions created a problem when inputting paper forms into the online system. Cllr Coe returned to the room.

## Phone Box Restoration

It might be possible to use chemical paint stripper on the phone box. Hammerite paint is available in red. It appears feasible for the project to be done by local volunteers. A proposal will be prepared by Cllrs.

## Cemetery Grounds Maintenance and Planting Proposal

The proposal was considered. It was agreed to continue to face the inside of hedges annually. Excess soil will be added to the surface of graves by the maintenance contractor in any season and in small enough amounts that the grass is not checked. It is difficult to replant in the location of the dead ash tree because of poor soil quality. Hedgerow plants will be planted in the hedging gap by April 2024 at latest, approximately nine hedging plants, and Cllrs Coe and Hadow can progress this. Devon Rural Skills Trust might be interested in doing the repair work to the wall. Cllr Luckens will have a look at the wall. The roadside of the hedge will be faced annually but only topped every two to three years as described in the proposal. Hedgerow trees will be marked before topping. Two areas will be added to the biodiversity zones which are cut less often – in front of the bench and below the cremation plots. Biodiversity zones will be cut in March and August, and all cuttings removed and placed around new trees and hedging plants. There is a small project to repair small holes in the parking surface. The Clerk will write up revised specifications for approval in the December meeting.

## Parish Basic Allowances

It was unanimously resolved to approve the payment of allowances of £120 to those Councillors who choose to claim them.

## Remembrance Service Sunday 12 November at 10:50 am

The arrangements for Parish Council representation at the Service, preparatory maintenance of the War Memorial area, and a donation to the Royal British Legion of £50 were agreed.

## Finance

Update on Current Financial Position. The Financial Reports showed total funds of £60,819.35 and an unearmarked general fund of £17,229.93.

Payments & Receipts. It was resolved to authorise the following payments:

Parish Online subscription	£58.80
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Blackawton Parish Church, Hire of Narthex 2/11/23	£20.00
Clerk, October expenses reimbursement	£96.97
CHT, Defibrillator Annual Support	£198.00
ARCCAS Churchyard frequent cuts, 05/9 & 21/9	£96.00 each
ARCCAS Churchyard frequent cuts, 03/10 & 17/10	£96.00 each
ARCCAS Cemetery frequent cuts, 03/10 & 17/10	£108.00 each
Maintenance Contractor, bus shelter cleans, vegetation from wall, repair to cemetery bench	£758.00
The following payment made since the October meeting was noted:	
ARCCAS, Cemetery frequent cuts, 05/9 & 21/9	£108.00 each
The following receipts were noted:	
Interment and EROB, Lawn cemetery	£500
Allwood of Totnes, Additional inscription	£40.00
Interment and EROB, Lawn cemetery	£250

### Correspondence

- West Dart Bus, Grant application From, For incorporation in budgeting process
- Energy Wise Show Totnes Civic Hall, 11th November, 12-5pm
- SHDC, Invitation advertise Christmas events in its website, social media and print campaigns
- SHDC, 26/10/23, Notice of canvassing to confirm Electoral Registration details
- SHDC Monitoring Officer, 31/10/23, Reminder to Cllrs to keep Registers of Interests current
- DALC, 'Connect' event 25/10/23, Devon Housing Commission's work on Devon housing crisis
- DCC, 2/11/23, Request for information about flooding incidents
- DCC, Invitation to Towns & Parishes budget meetings in November & December

### Dead Cemetery Ash Tree Removal Quotes

It was resolved to choose Pittman as the contractor to remove the tree.

### Grounds Maintenance Contract

It was resolved to accept the proposed prices from ARCCAS to do the Cemetery grounds maintenance in 2024, but also to request a reduction in the frequent cuts price as a result of the new biodiversity zones. BPC will request the removal of the cuttings from the biodiversity area and their placement elsewhere on site at an additional cost. ARCCAS has provided acceptable prices for the Churchyard frequent cuts and would be able to do that work in 2024 if BPC took on responsibility for the maintenance of the Churchyard and made that request. ARCCAS are not offering to do the biodiversity cuts in the Churchyard. It has been suggested that this work might be more suitable for a local resident who is able to be responsive to weather conditions and able to do the work in stages.

### Internal Auditor 2023/24

It was resolved to contract Microshade for the 2023/24 Internal Audit.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 5th December 2023** at 7.30 pm. The venue is to be confirmed and most likely St Michael's Church. You are most welcome to join the meeting and to raise any issues which may be of concern to you.

## Council contacts

Cllr Ruth Coe	01803 712131	ruth@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Sue Hadow	07306 007681	sue@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Rob Luckens		rob@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Charli Mardon		charli@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	01803 722417	parishclerk@blackawtoncommunity.com
Tree Warden, Bob Harvey	01803 712662	clyston23@gmail.com
Parish Lengthsman, Ian Cumberlidge	07773 691260	

### 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      0845 155 1015      customer@devon.gov.uk  
0345 155 1015  
Police non-urgent reporting      101  
or online form at [www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/your-area/teams/Dartmouth/Contact](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/your-area/teams/Dartmouth/Contact)

There are **Report It** buttons on [www.blackawtoncommunity.com](http://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



### Dartmouth Orchestra Concert

Beethoven    Egmont Overture  
Mozart        Symphony no 41 in C major, the 'Jupiter'  
Reinecke      Flute Concerto in D Major, soloist Emily Grant

**Friday 15 December 2023 at 7.30 pm**

The Flavel, Dartmouth    [theflavel.org.uk](http://theflavel.org.uk)



Also on Saturday 27 January 2024 at 3.00 pm at Ashburton Arts Centre, soloist Ruth Molins  
Contact Jill Kelly **07879 494914** or go to [www.dartmouth-orchestra.co.uk](http://www.dartmouth-orchestra.co.uk)

### The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming & District

from **Peter Hales**

*Where friendliness matters above all else.*

The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming and District has been in existence since 1984. We meet fortnightly on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The meetings start at 10.30 am with coffee followed by a speaker at 11.00 am and on the first meeting of the month we also have lunch at 12.30 pm.

Please call Peter Hales on **01803 770739** or email [peterhales21@gmail.com](mailto:peterhales21@gmail.com) for more information and to arrange to be welcomed to a trial meeting.

Our meeting in December is:

Wednesday 6th      lunch      The Solar System: Phil Evans

### CHSW Christmas Fair

from **Sue Tweed**

**The Old Market in Dartmouth** is the place to be from 10 am to 3 pm on

**Saturday 2nd December**

for a Christmas Fair in aid of **Children's Hospice South West**. Lots of stalls selling all sorts of desirables, including cards, crafts, art, alpaca wear, jewellery, driftwood gifts, books, cakes, candles and more, plus Dartmouth Rock singing **Christmas Carols** and a **raffle** with very impressive prizes!

Details from Sue on **07955 197721** or email [tweed833@btinternet.com](mailto:tweed833@btinternet.com).

## from the Editor



The Beacon is your community magazine. It is produced monthly and distributed **free-of-charge** to over 300 houses in the village and surrounding area.

It is brought to you by a team of hard-working volunteers. I edit it and organise the advertising, which helps to pay our costs. **Laura Howell** prints it on the old-fashioned printer in Church – not an easy job! It is collated by **Polly Morrow**. Until last month the distribution was organised very efficiently by **Jane Barsby**. Jane has now moved away and **Ruth Coe** has very kindly taken on this role. There are about 12 local distributors who put the Beacon through your letterbox.

We are all very grateful for the effort put in each month by these volunteers.

If you do not get the Beacon and would like to, email [beacon@blackawtoncommunity.com](mailto:beacon@blackawtoncommunity.com). You can also ask to receive the Beacon by email.

Please send your Beacon contributions by email to [beacon@blackawtoncommunity.com](mailto: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 January 2024 edition is **Friday 15th December** (a little earlier than usual).

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

## Advertisements

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# Gardentime Blooms with nostalgic charm this Christmas

## With NEW gift vouchers and perks for Garden Club members!

Christmas at Gardentime is a truly charming and magic place for the whole family. The local family run garden centre, cafe and farm shop with large, lit, covered area will be festooned in twinkling lights and you'll find over 1,000 cut and potted Christmas trees, as well as lighting and decorations, fresh hand-made wreaths, thoughtful gardening gifts and delicious local produce.

*"Christmas is all about nostalgia and nothing beats the distinctive pine smell and magic it brings into your home. We are very proud to say the trees we offer are the best in the country and from just up the road on Dartmoor"* says Philly Varlow

## Locally-sourced and award-winning Christmas trees available now and while stocks last!

Gardentime Garden Club Members will receive:

- **FREE Christmas tree delivery at a time that suits you**
- **A £10 'New Year' voucher to spend in-store until February 2023 with every Christmas tree purchase!**
- **30% off all indoor and outdoor festive lighting**
- **Baubles - 4 for £10**

Sourcing over 1,000 trees from a local award-winning grower on Dartmoor, Gardentime has gained a reputation as offering the best in the region, gracing local hotels, restaurants, schools and pubs, as well as supplying trees for the much loved, annual Stoke Fleming Christmas Tree Festival, which it will honour again this December. Sourcing locally means the trees travel a short distance from farm to home and as well as looking the part, for every tree harvested, another is planted.

## Hand-crafted fresh wreaths made on site from £19.99

As well as trees, lights and all the treasures and trinkets to adorn them, Gardentime are famed for their beautiful bespoke wreaths. Made on site by owner and florist Philly and her team, each hand-made wreath can be designed to your colourway of choice, or choose from a range of ready to buy designs from £19.99.

## NEW – Gardentime Gift Cards now available

When it comes to gifts for someone who has "everything", then a gift for the garden is a thoughtful choice. Luxury tools, fire pits and beautifully crafted benches are just a few things on offer, or why not hand-pick locally sourced edibles in the farm shop. For those who can't choose between a bird bath or a Begonia, the brand new Gardentime Gift Card is now in-store.

## Gardentime POP-UP at Totnes Late Night Shopping

For the first time, Gardentime is hitting the road and will have a stall at Totnes Late Night Shopping on **Tuesday 5th, 12th and 19th December**. Selling trees, wreaths and gifts - come and say hi to the team and pick up a gift or two.



## Gardentime is open daily

9.00 am – 5.30 pm Monday to Saturday

10.00 am – 4.00 pm Sundays

For more information visit [gardentime.biz](https://gardentime.biz)

# Blackawton Blooms

## Wreath Making Workshop



Blackpool Sands  
(early December)



I am so excited to tell you that I'm running my first wreath-making workshops this December at the stunning Blackpool Sands. I've been wanting to do this for years but the pandemic meant they kept getting cancelled, so I really am delighted to share my knowledge and skills with you.

You will learn to make your own beautiful Christmas wreath just the way you want it, to adorn your door this festive season. I will provide all materials: frames, wire, mossing twine, fir, a large variety of foliage, cones, dried flowers, dried fruit, berries, mini pumpkins, chillis, ribbon etc. I will take you step-by-step through making your own stunning creation. Mulled wine, tea, coffee and mince pies will be included in the price.

The small fly in the ointment is that the dates are yet to be confirmed as the manager is currently on holiday, but I didn't want to miss this edition of the Beacon to let you know about it. Dates are likely to be **Tuesday 5th December** and/or **Thursday 7th December** and/or **Monday 11th December** from 10 am – 1 pm. The cost is **£65**.

Please get in touch with me, Jane, on **07951 296494** by text, WhatsApp or phone or email **info@blackawtonblooms.co.uk** to register your interest. I will know the dates by the time the Beacon goes to print so I can let you know what they are when you contact me.

***I can't wait to show you how to do it and see your beautiful wreaths.***



## CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE!

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*Helen Reeve*

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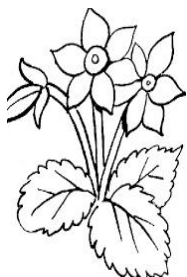
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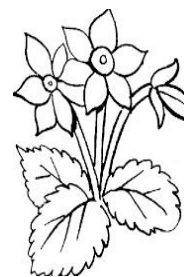
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*Great for a family Sunday roast  
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Available for pre-order now!  
**Blackawton Blooms**  
**Sustainable Christmas Wreaths**  
**and Gift Bouquets**



Sumptuous, luxurious, sustainable, Christmas wreaths, made the traditional way on a moss base are available for pre-order now! They are very long lasting and should last a month (if care instructions are followed). Please see photos on the Blackawton Blooms Facebook page or an example in the shop from early November. £58.50 without lights, £65 with lights. Wreaths can be collected from Blackawton, delivered locally or posted **anywhere in the country** (postage £12). Sensational, sustainable hand-tied bouquets are also available for local delivery in the South Hams. I can also post them anywhere in the country, so everyone can have a little bit of Devon sent to their door 😊.

***Bouquets for local delivery start at £30 plus delivery charges.***

***Postal flowers start at £35, with next day delivery by Parcelforce £12.***

Hand-tied bouquets are tastefully wrapped in brown paper and raffia and postal flowers are packaged in recycled and recyclable packaging. All flowers come with flower food and a beautiful card.

My flowers have a minimal carbon footprint, are grown organically without pesticides or artificial fertilisers, they are peat-free, plastic-free and grown in harmony with nature here in Devon and are a zero air mile product. From March to October my flowers are grown in Blackawton. From November to March I buy in from other Devon, SW and British growers (so they are also zero air miles). All of this and long-lasting to boot.

***Bouquets are available for pre-order for Christmas or at any time!***

Email Jane at [info@blackawtonblooms.co.uk](mailto:info@blackawtonblooms.co.uk)  
or call/message me on **07951 296494**.

Check out my FB page [www.facebook.com/blackawtonblooms](https://www.facebook.com/blackawtonblooms) or visit  
[www.blackawtonblooms.co.uk](http://www.blackawtonblooms.co.uk) for photos of bouquets and wreaths.



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## Parish Diary

### December 2023

Friday 1st	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 2nd	10.00 am	CHSW Christmas Fair	The Old Market, Dartmouth
Sunday 3rd	6.30 pm	Advent Carol Service	Church
Monday 4th	7.30 pm	Blackawton Christmas Choir	Orchard House
Tuesday 5th	7.30 pm	Blackawton Parish Council meeting	Church
Wednesday 6th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to The Willows via Totnes	Bus shelter
Friday 8th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Monday 11th	7.30 pm	Blackawton Christmas Choir	Orchard House
Tuesday 12th	11.55 am	Mobile library	Bus shelter
Thursday 14th		School candlelit Christmas service	Church
Friday 15th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
	12.00 noon	Festive drinks at the Community Shop	Community Shop
	4.00 pm	Shop Christmas Raffle draw	Community Shop
	7.30 pm	Dartmouth Orchestra Concert	The Flavel, Dartmouth
		Deadline for January Beacon	
Monday 18th	6.00 pm	Blackawton Carol Singers around the village	
	7.30 pm	Blackawton Carol Singers at the lychgate	Church Lychgate
Wednesday 20th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Newton Abbot via Totnes	Bus shelter
	10.00 am	Christmas Children's craft morning	Church
	7.00 pm	Christmas Carol Service	Church
Friday 22nd	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Monday 25th		Christmas Day – Community Shop closed	
Tuesday 26th		Boxing Day – Community Shop closed	
Friday 29th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Sunday 31st	5.00 pm	Christingle Service	Church