Blackawton Beacon
February 2024

published jointly by the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council

BADS

PANTOMIME

BADS

"Sleeping Beauty"

in the Church

at 7.30 pm

on Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd February 2024

Tickets on sale in the Community Shop.

For more information contact: Kate Janman **kate.janman@gmail.com 01803 712362**.

Pantomime Raffle

from **Carey Burton**

We would be very grateful if you are able to donate a prize (or prizes!) for the raffles.

Please bring any donations to Ruby House porch, in advance if possible.

Profits after expenses and seed funding for our next performance are donated to local good causes.

Thank you

Could you help print the Beacon?

The Beacon is printed each month by Laura Howell, using a rather old-fashioned printer in the church vestry. We are looking for someone to help with the printing, and do it when Laura is away. It takes about 3 hours once a month. You would be given full training and support is available.

Please email **beacon@blackawtoncommunity.com** or ring Andrew Morrow on **01803 712242** to volunteer, or for more information.

Support your community magazine!

St Michael's Church

Services for February

Date	*Time*	*Service*
Sunday 4th	9.30 am	Breakfast Church
Monday 5th	12.00 noon	Funeral of Norman Buckingham
Sunday 11th	9.30 am	Morning Worship
Wednesday 14th Ash Wednesday	7.00 pm	Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes *United Benefice service*
Sunday 18th	11.00 am	Holy Communion (by extension)
Sunday 25th	9.30 am	Morning Worship

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

From the registers

Saturday 20th January Wedding of Angus Tobey and Victoria Wright.

Our church team

Churchwardens	Kate Janman	01803 712362	Lay Readers	Frank Robinson	01803 712249
	Chris Janman	01803 712362		Lyn Robinson	01803 712249

Reader's Corner

from **Peter Barker**

King George VI, in his Christmas broadcast amid the danger and uncertainty of 1939, famously quoted from Minnie Louise Haskins:

> *Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.*
> *That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way.*

2024 has begun: a new year – yes – but new hope? The mocking magic of the world-wide fireworks has quickly faded and the globe-encircling gloom reasserts itself: Ukraine's suffering continues, and her present jeopardy seems greater than a year ago; the murderous barbarism perpetrated by Hamas has been followed by the hideous inhumanity inflicted on Gaza, with no end in sight, and now Yemen is involved too; threats, conflicts and atrocities rampant everywhere; blatant lies, falsehood, manipulation; society tearing itself apart in ever more extreme confrontational attitudes; the changing climate – what sort of world awaits our grandchildren and their children? And yet …… I glanced out at a wet and windy sea and watched in joyful wonder a gannet's stunning dive. Such beauty, technique, resilience! And every day countless individual acts of human generosity, kindness, self-sacrifice. We must not give up! We can make a difference! Although, against the bigger picture, our efforts seem so weak and puny, so easily exhausted. Are there any possible glimmers of hope on the horizon?

The Olympic Games will take place again this summer. (If only the ancient ideal of the 'Olympic Truce' could be re-energised!) The Paris location reminds me of Eric Liddell in the 1924 games and his Sunday sermon (as in Chariots of Fire) on Isaiah 40.28-31: "….. *those who wait for (or 'trust in') the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*" We are not alone. Come what may, Christians can be sure of God's ever faithful presence and support. The love of Jesus will never let us go. The Holy Spirit can guide, transform and

empower us. Without my faith I would easily despair, but trusting Jesus I'll endeavour to put my hand in God's and step out in hope.

Perhaps we can all share the bold aspiration of Tennyson's Ulysses:

Come my friends,
'Tis not too late to seek a newer world.
Push off, and sitting well in order smite
The sounding furrows; for my purpose holds .....
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

Wishing you steadfastness, hope and joy in the year ahead.

Village Life

Scott's Open Mic Night is back for 2024!

Saturday 3rd of February from 8.00 pm

Are you a musician, comedian, poet or entertainer? If so, would you be interested in sharing your talents with our village? If so, please come down to **The George Inn** on Saturday 3rd February from 8.00 pm.

This event is getting bigger and more popular every time (we blew the roof off back in November!). Why not come along and support what great talent we have in our village, or just come for a drink and evening of fun! **All welcome!**

Please contact Scott, **scottyrocks@hotmail.co.uk**, with any enquires.

Blackawton WI

from **Sandra Tope**

What a blessing it is to have some dry weather, after all the rain we had in the last couple of months. Although by the time you read this it will probably be back to normality again! One of the first dry days coincided with our New Year's Walk around Little Dartmouth on the first Sunday in January. Cold and crisp, several members, partners and friends all enjoyed an invigorating walk before gathering at the Sportsmans for a well deserved carvery.

Our first meeting of the year was again at the Sportsmans, due to the Village Hall still being out of commission. Our speaker was Debbie Lumsden from Dame Hannah Rogers in Ivybridge. What an amazing job they do, looking after disabled young people and providing respite and day care for others. Her amusing talk, filled with anecdotes, reiterated how important their work is. A lot of it is funded through donations and the hard work of volunteers fund raising tirelessly. Debbie then judged the competition of a photo of a frosty morning, which was won by Sue Taylor, and the bloom which was won by Sandra Tope.

Our February meeting will be held on 21 February, at 10.30 am, at Sportsmans Arms. Our speaker will be Laurence Green who will be telling us about his ghost story writing. The competition is for an ornate bracelet, and as usual there is the Bloom of the Month. Points are earned just by entering the competitions every month, more if you are placed, and then at the end of the year prizes are awarded for those with the most. These are usually in the form of M&S vouchers, so well worth taking part.

The WI is for women of any age, to learn new skills, make new friends, or catch up with old ones, and we are a very active group in Blackawton. There is something for everyone, so for more details feel free to ring Sue on **01803 712145** or Sandra on **01803 712622**.

BINGO
Friday 16th February
Moreleigh Village Hall
Doors open 6.30 pm, eyes down 7.30 pm
Caller Lindsey Little,
fabulous prizes and lovely refreshments!
In aid of Kingsbridge Under 15's rugby team

BINGO
Friday 15th March
Moreleigh Village Hall
in aid of Dame Hannah Rogers
Eyes down 7.30 pm ~ caller Melvyn Treeby
Raffle, good refreshments
Hope to see you there!

Blackawton and Strete History Society

from **Anne Harvey**

The History of Blackawton's First Village Hall (as written in 2006)

During a period around 1936-7 the people of Blackawton decided they wanted a village hall but they did not have enough money to start building. Dr John Henry Harris, who lived in Myrtle Cottage, Blackawton, offered to loan money to enable the committee to erect a wooden hall which was put on land at the top of the village now occupied by a mobile home and known as 'Two Gates'. Dr Harris died in 1939 and his wife, Amy Caroline, died in 1943 and their daughter Muriel later went to live in Preston, Paignton.

In 1947 the hall was burnt down and the insurance money for the total loss of the hall was claimed (remember there was no electricity in the parish at that time so the likely cause of the fire was an oil lamp or candle left burning). The loan given by Dr Harris was not asked for repayment but given to the village by his daughter. The Blackawton Parish Council were made trustees of the money, which was invested in the Post Office Savings Bank. During the mid 1960s it was decided to register the money with The Charity Commissioners for investment.

In the late 1960s there was a request by several parishioners for the Parish Council to provide a children's playing field in the village. At that time Mr Bastard of Balsdon Farm was renting five acres of pasture land adjacent to the village but the owner of the land wanted to sell. The Parish Council requested permission from The Charity Commissioners to withdraw £500 for purchase of the land and a further £300 for playing field equipment to which they agreed on condition that the remainder of the money in the account should be left to provide a recoupment fund with The Charity Commissioners for at least 30 years.

A Playing Field Committee was formed and about half an acre between the Old Vicarage and Uppity Lane was fenced and equipped as a playing field with swings, a slide, see-saw and goal posts. A grand opening day was arranged at which we invited Muriel (Dr Harris' daughter) to cut the tape and declare the field open. The field is known as 'The John Henry Harris Playing Field'. A large bronze plaque with this name was fitted on the gate but it now seems to have gone missing since a new gate was fitted by South Hams District Council, who now maintain the field.

The rest of the land was let for sheep keep, which provided income for maintenance of the playing field and equipment. Since then another part of the land has been used to build the new village hall. More has been sold for low-cost housing for local people and this money used to build the tennis court and more recently an area is now used for allotments. How fortunate the Council was to purchase this area of land and how grateful we should be to Dr John Henry Harris.

Written by Michael Toms, Blackawton Parish Councillor 1957-1998

1st Dartmouth Scout Group

from **Laura Howell**

Prize Bingo

Saturday 23rd March 2024

Doors open 6.00, eyes down at 7.00 pm. The caller is Linsey Little.

Scouting in Dartmouth is open to all children in the local area aged 6 to 14 years and we aim to provide a wide range of exciting and fun opportunities whilst also developing Skills For Life.

100% of any money raised will be used to ensure that Scouting is accessible to all our members by subsidising activities and fully covering costs for those in financial hardship.

We would be extremely grateful if any local businesses could help us make this event a success by **donating a prize**. If you are able to offer a prize, please contact Hannah on **07929 71670** to arrange collection; or drop your donation in to Laura at Heyes, Main Street (2 doors down from the shop) or *Distinctly Living* in Dartmouth have kindly agreed to act as a drop off point.

We really do appreciate any support you can offer. Many thanks.

Tree Warden

from **Bob Harvey**

Everyone wants to "save the planet" by planting trees but remember that :

1. The Government accepts that it takes 20 years for the tree to start to compensate for the carbon used in transport of young trees, tubes, people and bamboos from China to site for planting and after-care.
2. Conifers absorb four times the carbon of broadleaves as they grow faster, and building needs conifer timber, usually imported.

3. Wood is a renewable resource but it takes 50 years to grow mature conifers. Oak needs over 100, probably 150 years to replace itself. Wild cherry and ash can provide timber after 60 years, while ash, hazel and sweet chestnut can be coppiced for hurdles and split-paling fencing after 7 - 10 years rotation. Bamboo grows fast and well in Devon.
4. Every acre of farmland planted as woodland increases the volume of food we need to import, which increases carbon emissions from transport and our reliance on uncertain outside factors.
5. Grey squirrels are vermin and the **major deterrent** to large scale commercial planting of broadleaves. Beech, oak, chestnut, and birch are highly likely to have their bark completely stripped, killing the tree, at about 10 years old. Two years ago they killed over 200 of my young trees in two days.
6. With global mobility there has been an explosion of tree diseases over the past decade. Ash dieback, phytophthera, chestnut blight (which killed billions of trees in USA), instant oak death, etc. etc. have all been imported. Cherry is generally resistant to imported diseases and squirrels.
7. Climate change brings summer droughts, which kill shallow-rooted trees like beech, and winter soil saturations, which can drown even alder.

So you planted a tree in ’23 - will it still be alive in ’25? ’45? ’75?

Bob Harvey - cynical but still dedicated.

Yoga classes

from **Hannah Roberts**

Hannah's Hatha weekly yoga classes are still at

Blackawton church (in the narthex)

Until the village hall work is finished, that's where they'll be.

Tuesdays 6.00 - 7.15 pm	Hatha Yoga
Wednesdays 9.00 - 10.15 am	Hatha Yoga
Wednesdays 10.30 - 11.30 am	Chair Yoga/gentle exercise

Please contact Hannah for more info or to book: **07951 079608** or **hanskiyoga@yahoo.co.uk**.

South Devon Primary

from **Ben Long**

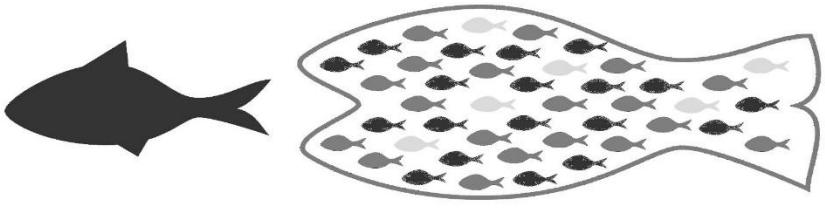
Community-led project aims to boost democracy

South Devon Primary is described by its founders as ‘next level tactical voting’ and ‘democracy in action’. They explain that voters on the left of politics have three parties to choose from at election time, whereas those on the right have traditionally only had one. Under the UK’s first-past-the-post voting system, the party with the most votes wins, regardless of the size of the share of the votes cast. So left-wing and centrist voters end up unrepresented, even where they constitute a majority. Our current MP is expected to be re-elected on less than one-third of the vote,’ says the Primary’s Simon Oldridge. ‘We don’t think that feels democratic, so we’ve devised a system that aims to achieve a more representative outcome.’

The organisers are holding seven town hall events across South Devon in the first two weeks of March. At these, the Green, Labour and Lib Dem candidates will answer questions and make their case for being chosen as ‘People’s Champion’ in a vote by the public. ‘It’s about establishing community consensus on which of the three candidates to rally behind if you want a more progressive MP next election,’ says Oldridge. ‘Without a Primary, tactical voting in this seat is really hard.’

Whilst the Conservatives have won here for the last 100 years, the party in second place has varied, and current forecasts disagree about which party is closest behind the Conservative. Primary organisers hope that a collective decision about which candidate to back will bring about a historic election victory.

For South Devon (formerly Totnes) constituency residents in Blackawton, the nearest Primary events are in Totnes Civic Hall on Saturday 2 March at 2 pm, Kingsbridge College on Saturday 9 March at 2 pm, or in Dartmouth at Townstal Community Hall on Sunday 10 March at 2 pm. Tickets (required for entry) are free and can be booked at **www.southdevonprimary.org**.



A year in a Blackawton allotment

from **Jill Kelly**

This is to track a Blackawton allotment year by a pretty novice vegetable grower. My 25 years of gardening have almost entirely been devoted to flowers and ornamentals, and these are what are taking up all the space in my garden. However, I do have some allotment lineage. My maternal grandfather lived out his final years on an allotment. I do not know why and have no aspirations to do the same. My father had a huge council allotment with a shed and damson tree. The tree blighted my childhood with endless damson jam sandwiches. My mother was a martyr to the dirty, slug filled vegetables which were brought home to her to prepare. I suspect that dirt and slugs will be a theme of my new endeavour.

At the cost of a major supermarket shop, I have ordered a load of seeds from an independent producer called The Real Seed Catalogue. Unlike Thompson & Morgan, there was a write-up of each seed easily visible on the website and the choice was not too bewildering. I fear I have ordered far too many seeds for the 25m² of my new half plot.

I have ready to plant when the soil warms up: (1) Beetroot I sowed in September in an enthusiastic moment, and then planted up into 3 large pots. I have no idea when they will be ready to eat as this was not the time of the year you are supposed to sow them. (2) Garlic and red onion sets which I bought half price around Christmas and have planted in small pots. They were supposed to be planted in the Autumn, but I hope that, by putting them in my tiny greenhouse (more grandiose cold frame), they will make up for lost time. (3) Rhubarb again bought half price at Christmas as a bare root crown. I have also potted that up and put it in the greenhouse. That should do fine because the packaging advised planting in Autumn or Spring.

My right hand guide will be Monty Don and, like Monty, I would like to grow in raised beds with paths between them. So, the first task is to get my husband to help me construct this. I am planning a less ambitious scheme than Monty, with the beds just one plank high.

Apparently, seed sowing starts in February indoors with celery and tomatoes. At the same time, I will also try leeks, lettuce, oriental greens and winter purslane in seed trays in the mini greenhouse. In theory, broad beans, carrots and rocket can be sown outdoors in February, but I am not convinced. See reference to slugs above.

Mobile Library

from **Heidi McCoy**, Libraries Unlimited

The Mobile Library will come to Blackawton on **Tuesday 27th February** at 11.55 am, at the bus shelter.

This will be the last visit of the Mobile Library. The service is discontinued from the end of February. For more information 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 February:

Friday 2nd	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Wednesday 7th	The Willows, Torquay via Totnes
Friday 9th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 16th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 23rd	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Wednesday 28th	Newton Abbot via Totnes

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**

January started with New Year resolutions. The children were asked to take stock and think about what is truly important in their life, reflect and share their experiences and achievements over the last year. Having heard many of their resolutions it's apparent how unselfish our young children are. Many of their resolutions were not just about changes that would impact their own lives, but more so community, friends and family's lives as well as change for the wider world.

Thank you again to Blackawton Community shop, the funds you raised will contribute to the exciting new plans for the outdoor playground makeover, to include additional basketball nets, outdoor games and play equipment.

As always, the weather has not stopped our lust for outdoor learning. Despite rain, wind and even snow, the children have been outside identifying different trees and making use of winter sticks to create stick houses, stick friends and stick challenges. The activities encourage the children to bond sticks with string, think about design and construction approaches, tie knots and work as part of a team.

In the early part of this month, the school has a focus on mental health and mindfulness which aims to give the children life awareness for themselves and others. We will also be looking at safe internet use and potential dangers.

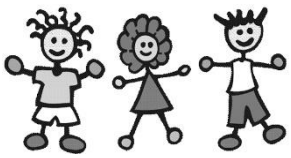
On February 9th, 3.15 pm we will be opening the school hall to all, for our first **Bake & Book sale**. We are currently accepting book donations, any suitable for the school library will be added to shelves for the children to loan, others will be offered for sale to raise funds for additional reading support resources. If you have any books you could donate, please drop them to the school reception before February 5th. **All books welcome!** Class 3 will be in charge of the baking, so please drop by for a cake and a new read!

Contact Blackawton Primary school: tel: **01803 712363** email: **admin@blackawtonprimary.org.uk**.

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** and search for **Blackawton School**.

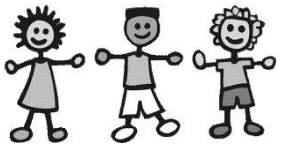


Blackawton Nursery Stay and Play

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).

Village Hall

Village Hall Roof

from **Adrian Kyte**

You will have noticed the progress on the outside of the roof but a lot of work you can't see is going on inside as well. Steady progress is being made but we are not able to confirm a date for reopening yet.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this vital community project please email Ruth Coe, **ruthxcoe@icloud.com**. There are many tasks to do, like cleaning up and redecorating, that do not require building skills.

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.

Community Shop

from **Kate Purver**

Shop telephone: **01803 712157**. Email: **blackawtonshop@gmail.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

This month we have continuing plans to improve the shop – reorganising to give more space so we can stock more fresh produce, among other things. We're looking into more local suppliers, and hope to stock organic eggs & milk alongside (not instead of!) our regular products, so as to give you more choice.

We've learned that the donations the shop made from our Christmas raffle to our local schools are being used by Blackawton Primary School to help improve a "calm space"; and by Dartmouth Academy towards their expedition fund-raising, which will give students the amazing opportunity to travel to Borneo to do voluntary work and experience the culture there.

Wine of the Month
McGuigan Lot 92 Shiraz, Australia £6.95

If you did Dry January, why not ease back into winter drinking with this bargain from down under! It has the unusual advantage of an ABV (alcohol by volume) level of only 11% (often a Shiraz is around 14%). A soft, medium-bodied red, full of smooth plum and black fruit flavours and with a fragrant and spicy finish – ideal with a winter casserole or spaghetti Bolognese.

We'd still love to hear from any of you who might consider joining our team of volunteers:

- We're looking for back-up volunteers, to fill slots in the shop when regular volunteers are away or unwell. Could you spare a few hours to come in and have some till training and learn about what goes on at the community shop?
- We will give you all the support you need, and won't leave you on your own until you feel ready!
- If you don't fancy working the till, it's also really useful to have people able to come in and restock shelves, unpacking orders etc. as and when needed.
- We hold regular socials for volunteers, and help out with lots of village events – so it's a great way to meet new people and get to know all about village life!

If you can't commit to a regular slot but would like to be involved as and when you can, we would love to hear from you. **Please consider joining us** – contact Helen or Kaede at the shop to find out more.

Parish Council

The Thoughts of Chairman Rake

from **Simon Rake**

What would you put in Switzerland?

A while back, the Swiss Tourist Board (or some similarly august body) created an empty, virtual, on-line version of Switzerland and invited visitors to the website to add in the things that were essentially Swiss; the things that they would most want to see if they visited.

I was wondering what would happen if we did a similar thing in Devon, or more specifically the South Hams, or perhaps more specifically still, Blackawton. What makes Devon so, well, Devon-y, or Blackawton so very Blackawton-y? What would you put in? What, for that matter, would you leave out? And if we did undertake such an exercise, and identified these essences – the hedgerows, say; the little hidden beaches, the narrow, shallow valleys – would that mean we would want more of them, or is part of the essence of the place the existing balance between these elements? And what of the intangible things – community, tranquillity, the quality of the light in spring – could we, would we include those too?

So far, so abstract; and whilst one of my readers says they don't mind a bit of whimsy, the other often encourages me to stop waffling and get to the point. To the latter I say I have two points this month. The first is that the Joint Local Plan (JLP) – covering Plymouth, West Devon and South Hams -- will shortly be coming up for review. This is an important document that has considerable weight in determining what changes in our physical surroundings and what remains the same. The JLP is intended to fine-tune the National Planning Policy Framework to reflect our local needs and the specific nature of our district and region. To an extent, therefore, it is an attempt to 'do a Switzerland' and consider what we need or want more of, less of or just the same amount of. The result is a suite of policies in areas like planning, housing and economic development. The JLP covers the period from 2014 to 2034, and it is reviewed and updated every five years. It is an important document and affects the work of the Parish Council in many ways; principally planning matters of course, but others besides. Once the review has been completed, any proposed changes will be put out for consultation – so it is worth having a think about what your virtual South Hams and your virtual Blackawton would look like, and letting your Parish Councillors know.

The second point (two in a month, you are spoiled!) is more about what we might want to get rid of. The street lighting survey is still live and you have until the end of February to complete it. We have had a fair flurry of responses so far, with a range of views expressed. Whether street lights would feature in your virtual Blackawton or not, we'd love to hear from you. The survey can be found on our website **blackawtoncommunity.com**. The closing date is **29th February.**

Who knows, one day it might be joined by a virtual Blackawton to which you can add, or from which you can subtract key elements. In the meantime, the website remains a source of information about things going on in the Parish, which you can also find out about on the Blackawton Parish Council and Blackawton Community Facebook pages.

When the results of the Swiss exercise were tallied up it wasn't the towering mountains, tranquil lakes or Robert Maillart's breath-taking bridges that proved most popular. Nor was it banking secrecy, cleanliness or frequent referendums. No, it was cows with bells on. Because as we all know, their horns don't work.

Blackawton Parish Council meeting

from **Annette Thom**, Parish Clerk

Notes of the Meeting of Blackawton Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.30 pm in St Michael's Church, Blackawton. Complete minutes can be read at **www.blackawtoncommunity.com** or the parish noticeboard.

Open Forum

No parishioners raised matters.

Councillors Forum

Matters discussed:

- Business Units at French Furze – Installation of solar panels and EV charging have been discussed but further action is premature until ownership has been transferred.
- Drainage at French Furze - Some work has been done.
- Adoption of French Furze roads by DCC – It appears the road will be adopted in 2024 with a 30 miles per hour speed limit.
- Plan for Blackawton to achieve net zero – Consider inviting a speaker to the Annual Parish Meeting. Note DCC and SHDC have a carbon plans.
- Thermal imaging camera – After training tomorrow the loan camera will be available to survey homes.
- Phone box restoration – A proposal will be provided to the March meeting of BPC.

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). There were no members of the public.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mardon.

Declarations of Interest

None declared.

Report from South Hams District Council Councillor

A full Council meeting before Christmas adopted the Task and Finish Group's report on the Freeport. Two roads at French Furze recycling waste collections were missed because of staff illness and substitutions. It was collected two days later. The national target is a maximum of 80 out of 100,000 collections missed. SHDC's are now much reduced, about 200.

Report from Devon County Council Councillor

Devon County Councillor Brazil reported that the expected council tax increase will be a total of 5 percent. There is a Cabinet meeting tomorrow. The Special Educational Needs budget deficit has increased, currently a £40 million overspend. There is a way for the Government to pay the debt off, but it would need the annual revenue overspend addressed. The Devolution deal for Devon and Torbay is progressing. We don't know the details, what powers might be devolved, the costs, or who will pay. There will be a special Cabinet meeting on 2 February. It is expected that Cabinet will sign off to proceed to a consultation, starting 9 February. The devolution may be ratified in April and start in May. There is an HS2 funds dividend which is paying for extra pothole crews. Cllr Brazil would welcome feedback on the teams.

Planning Applications

SHDC Planning Decisions

3991/23/AGR Land at SX808527, Blackawton. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed agricultural storage building measuring 18m (length) x 12m (breadth) x 6.1m (height to ridge). **Prior Approval Not Required.**

Review of New Applications

4086/23/HHO 2 Church Quillet Blackawton TQ9 7BT. Householder application for proposed single vehicle hardstand. **Support.**

3912/23/HHO Seawardstone Lodge, Blackawton, TQ9 7AB. Householder application for alterations & extension to existing property. **Support.**

4178/23/ARC Larcombe Farm, East Allington, TQ9 7QB. Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (Facing Materials), 4 (Windows/Doors/Sills), 5 (Sample Panel), 7 (Flues/Vents), 8 (Rooflights) and 9 (Eaves/Verges) of planning consent 3929/22/FUL. **To respond No comment.**

4179/23/ARC Larcombe Farm, Lane To Larcombe Farm, East Allington, TQ9 7QB. Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (Facing Materials) , 4 (Windows/Doors/Sills), 5 (Sample Panel), 7 (Flues/Vents), 8 (Rooflights) and 9 (Eaves/Verges) of planning consent 3930/22/LBC. **To respond No comment.**

Consultations

No BPC comment submitted on the following consultations.

- Peninsula Transport, Draft Transport Strategy. Closes 5/2/24.
- South Devon Rural Housing Association, Proposed Merger with Places for People Group. Closes 7/2/24.

Finance

Update on Current Financial Position. The reports, which showed total funds of £55,796.22 and an unearmarked general fund of £12,929.80, were received.

Proposed Budget 2024/25. It was resolved to approve the 2024/25 Budget and Precept demand as circulated. The Precept will be £23,000.00, an increase of £4,000.00, which equates to a total annual cost of £9.71 per 'Band D equivalent household'. No new transfers made to earmarked reserves. The maintenance of the Cemetery wall will be funded from earmarked reserves.

Payments authorised.

Church, Hire of the Narthex, December and January	£40.00
Clerk, Expenses reimbursement	£29.43

Cemetery Maintenance Contract. An additional charge of £100 was agreed to move the timing of cutting the interior face of the hedging around the Cemetery.

Planning Repairs to the Cemetery Wall

Repairs are required to the Cemetery wall on Back Lane. It was agreed to obtain quotes for two days work, starting with the most affected areas, and doing as much work as possible in the time available, and providing the approach to take or options. Quotes will also be obtained for the traffic management for the road closure. Aim to obtain quotes for February BPC meeting.

Maintenance of the Closed Churchyard

A discussion meeting was scheduled for 16 January at 7:30 pm in the Church for the purpose of having time for Cllrs to ask questions and discuss the possible options.

Correspondence

- Email, South Devon AONB renamed South Devon National Landscapes.
- Slapton Tree Hub, Saturday 20 January, 10am-2pm, Slapton Village Hall.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 13th February 2024** at 7.30 pm, one week later than usual due to Councillor absences. The venue is currently expected to be 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	01803 712111	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 07970 971140	julian.brazil@devon.gov.uk
Devon County Council	0845 155 1015 0345 155 1015	customer@devon.gov.uk
Police non-urgent reporting	101	

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).

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. If you do not get the Beacon and would like to, email **beacon@blackawtoncommunity.com**. 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 March edition is **Monday 19th February**.

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

RGC mobility

KITCHENS & BATHROOMS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Wet Rooms • Walk-in Baths • Wash & Dry Toilets • Seated Showering

Level Access • Grab Rails • Raised Toilets • Adapted Taps

Accessible Ovens • Rise & Fall Hobs Worktops & Cupboards

Collingwood Road Dartmouth TQ6 9JY 01803 834622 **rgcbuildingsupplies.co.uk**

Helen Reeve

Stanborough Farm B & B

Halwell

Totnes

TQ9 7JQ

01548 821306/07807 787327

stanboroughfarm@hotmail.com

Open all year round

If you have friends or relations staying here why not join them for breakfast or an evening meal at the farm.

J.D BOOKKEEPING

XERO TRAINING
FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

BOOKKEEPING

VAT RETURNS

CASH FLOW FORECASTING

josie@jdbookkeeping.co.uk
www.jdbookkeeping.co.uk

AAT Licensed Bookkeeper · XERO ADVISOR CERTIFIED · Xero payroll certified

health hub

End Back Pain & Stiffness

WITHOUT Taking Painkillers
Or Seeing The GP

Back pain is the **most common problem** we see in the clinic..... and it's gardening time!

We have many ways to help those with back pain. No matter how long you've suffered, there is STILL something that can be done.

Find out we can help you with our **FREE TASTER SESSION** or request our **FREE** back pain report, "12 Steps To Eliminate Back Pain And Stay Pain Free" Call us and quote "parish magazine Spring 2022"

www.healthhub-kingsbridge.co.uk 01548852355

Physio Massage Pilates Fitness Exercise

The Ex-Dairy Farmer

OVEN READY
SLOW MATURING, FREE RANGE
Chickens & Ducks
now available all year round

Discounts for larger orders
Sausages usually available

Text/Telephone
ROB 07929160071
stanboroughfarm@hotmail.com

Great for a family Sunday roast and topping up the deep-freeze

Blackawton Blooms

Flowers for all occasions

Blackawton Blooms growing and arranging beautiful flowers since 2009

Blackawton Blooms is here for all your flower needs; hand-tied gift bouquets, Valentine's flowers, Mother's Day flowers, weddings, businesses, events, weekly subscriptions, funerals and postal flowers.

Sensational, sustainable hand-tied bouquets 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 🙂.

My flowers aren't found in your average florist, garage or supermarket. They are cottage-garden, wild and unusual flowers and always stunning. They have a minimal carbon footprint, are grown organically without pesticides or artificial fertilisers, they are peat and plastic free, grown in harmony with nature here in Devon and are zero air miles. All this and long-lasting to boot.

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 also zero air miles).

Email me at **info@blackawtonblooms.co.uk** or call/message **07951 296494**.
Check out my FB page **www.facebook.com/blackawtonblooms**
or visit **www.blackawtonblooms.co.uk** for examples of my work.

Mason Accountancy

Small Business Accountants

Mason Accountancy specialises in providing personal accounting services to individuals, sole traders, partnerships and small local businesses. We can take care of all your tax and statutory reporting obligations, so that you have time to concentrate on your business.

Friendly & Professional Accounting

Get in touch at: anne-marie@masonaccountancy.com
07733 334797, www.masonaccountancy.com

EZEBAG

You Fill it Up
We Pick it Up

The Easier Way to Clear Away Your Rubbish

From £135

Including bag delivery & collection

ezebag.co.uk 01803 834622

HOUSEHOLD • GARDEN • DIY • GENERAL BUILDING

KNOWLE TREE SERVICES

Looking for qualified tree surgeons and foresters?
Then look no further!

Knowle Tree Services are one of Devon's leading Tree Surgery and Forestry companies. Our head office is based in Totnes covering all of Devon.

All aspects of tree surgery, forestry and woodland work undertaken

Log deliveries — Hedge cutting
Free estimates — Fully insured

Contact: **07711 828184** / **01803 813286**

www.knowletreeservices.co.uk

Parish Diary

February 2024

Friday 2nd	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
	7.30 pm	BADS pantomime *Sleeping Beauty*	Church
Saturday 3rd	7.30 pm	BADS pantomime *Sleeping Beauty*	Church
	8.00 pm	Scott's Open Mic Night	The George Inn
Tuesday 6th	6.00 pm	Hatha Yoga class	Church
Wednesday 7th	9.00 am	Hatha Yoga class	Church
	10.30 am	Chair Yoga/gentle exercise	
	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to The Willows via Totnes	Bus shelter
Friday 9th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
	3.15 pm	Blackawton School Bake & Book sale	School Hall
Tuesday 13th	6.00 pm	Hatha Yoga class	Church
	7.30 pm	Blackawton Parish Council meeting	Church
Wednesday 14th	9.00 am	Hatha Yoga class	Church
	10.30 am	Chair Yoga/gentle exercise	
Friday 16th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
	6.30 pm	Bingo	Moreleigh Village Hall
Monday 19th		Deadline for March Beacon	
Tuesday 20th	6.00 pm	Hatha Yoga class	Church
Wednesday 21st	9.00 am	Hatha Yoga class	Church
	10.30 am	Chair Yoga/gentle exercise	
	10.30 am	Blackawton WI meeting	Sportsmans Arms
Friday 23rd	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Tuesday 27th	11.55 am	Mobile library	Bus shelter
	6.00 pm	Hatha Yoga class	Church
Wednesday 28th	9.00 am	Hatha Yoga class	Church
	10.30 am	Chair Yoga/gentle exercise	
	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Newton Abbot via Totnes	Bus shelter
Thursday 29th		Deadline for Parish Council lighting survey	