



Blackawton Beacon

January 2024

published jointly by the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council

St Michael's Church

Services for January

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>
Sunday 7th Baptism of Christ	9.30 am	Holy Communion (by extension)
Sunday 14th	9.30 am	Morning Worship
Sunday 21st	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 28th	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 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.

Reader's Ramblings

from **Frank Robinson**

At the time of writing this article we are well into the season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparing for Christmas. It is a call of peace and hope. The conditions in Britain are summed up brilliantly in that famous poem by John Betjeman:

Its dark at breakfast, dark at tea,
And in between we only see
Clouds hurrying across the sky
And rain-wet roads the wind blows dry
And branches bending to the gale
Against the skies all silver-pale.

It is a time of deep and dark shadows when we wonder if the sun will ever shine again. My little dog has got it sussed. He is oblivious to the weather and when he comes into the house if he finds it hot he lies on his back, with his feet in the air and waits for someone to tickle his tummy. I have to say that I have tried this and surprising nobody seems interested! Back to Advent. From across time the Advent bells call out about salvation and hope, it is a call that brings light into the shadows. A good Advent recognises that the darkness will not overcome it.

The church fathers did not pick 25th December to celebrate the birth of Christ because they thought it was the actual day Mary gave birth, but because that was the time when the pre-Christian people were celebrating the new birth of the sun. Our ancestors had ways to woo the sun god back. So strong was their faith that, year after year, they did succeed in wooing the great light back! But we know that darkness does not exist in itself: it is the absence of something - of light - so one light, one single light, shatters the darkness, however deep it is, and lights the way to itself.

One of the wonderful things about Christmas is the look on children's faces as they see the Christmas tree light up. We seem as adults to lose our sense of anticipation and wonder. Maybe the heart of a good Advent

is rediscovering that sense of expectation. My own position is summed up in the words of that beautiful hymn by Horatio Bonar (1809-89):

I looked to Jesus, and I found
In Him my star, my sun;
And in the light of life I'll walk
Til travelling days are done.

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and that 2024 will bring you great joy. God bless you all.

Our church team

Churchwardens Kate Janman 01803 712362
Chris Janman 01803 712362

Lay Readers Frank Robinson 01803 712249
Lyn Robinson 01803 712249

Village Life



PANTOMIME

“Sleeping Beauty”



in the Village Hall or in the Church

on Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd February 2024

If the Village Hall roof repairs are not going to be completed in time, we will either delay the Pantomime for a week or two or, if the repairs look like taking longer than that, move to the Church.

Once a decision has been made, posters will go up with the venue and dates.

Tickets will be on sale in the Community Shop.

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

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**

We hope you all had a happy and healthy Christmas and enjoyable New Year's celebrations. Let's hope 2024 is a good one ...

Several members made their way to Exeter for the County Carol Service at Exeter Cathedral in early December. As usual, it was a great way to start the Christmas celebrations. We then continued with our Christmas lunch, this year at the Old Inn at Halwell and a party held at the home of our President Sue Taylor.

The first meeting of the year will be held on **Wednesday January 17 2024**, once more at the Sportsmans Arms at 10.30 am. Our speaker will be Debbie Lumsden from Dame Hannah Rodgers. The competition is

a picture of a frosty morning, as well as the usual bloom of the month. Everyone is welcome to come along, your first two visits are free ...

For more information, please ring Sue **01803 712145** or Sandra **01803 712622**.

Tree Warden

from **Bob Harvey**

Tree Planting

This is the best time of the year to plant trees as they have plenty of time to develop their roots well before possible droughts. For native trees you can buy a 2-year-old bare-rooted slip, plus bamboo cane, plus protective spiral for only £2 - £3, so plant a few and keep the strongest. Plant by slicing the soil with a spade, second slice to make a "T" shape, lift and shove the tree in the slot formed by the stem of the "T". Easy - little trees are tough. I have at Lower Clyston a few dozen new canes and tubes which I'm happy to give to anyone who asks. Phone to check 01803 712662.

Big estates often plant a single parkland tree, staked and surrounded by hefty wooden stakes and wire fencing. Then the tree dies! Keeping the tree clear of weeds for a year or two is proven to be a great help, but it also exposes the tree to drying out in a drought.

Species? Consider native Wild Cherry, or Gean. Explanation next month.

Blackawton Fireworks

from **Derek Hallett**

The Fireworks Team would like to thank all who helped or contributed in any way towards Fireworks Night, which was a marvellous event and, thanks to everyone, was very successful. Any contributions towards next year's celebration would be very much appreciated.

Sustainable Blackawton

from **Ruth Coe**

Formed many years ago with a focus on environmental issues, this group has achieved some small successes. The habitat group distributed many illustrated booklets about helping biodiversity across the South Hams, and this small group has recently won an award, our river champions will be sampling water quality all along our local river, the Gara, and tree planting and hedge management continues across our parish. But what exactly does "sustainable" mean? Dictionary definitions are all very well but tend to be general rather than specific. What is a "sustainable village"?

Blackawton seems to me to be the very definition of this! A school, play group, a pub, a brilliant community shop, allotments, play park, village hall, community meadow, football pitch, tennis court, our WI, our community bus, this monthly newsletter, all of these are very important . . . but none of these would be successful and "sustainable" without the dedication, effort and time of so many local people!

In the December edition of the Beacon thanks were expressed to the many people who contribute, edit, print, collate and distribute the newsletter, every month, throughout our parish. Our brilliant platoons of volunteers make this parish a wonderful place to live, to call home. They organise and manage so much of what goes on here, annual events like the amazing fireworks display in November, our village day and "International festival of Worm Charming" in the Spring, street cricket on Boxing Day, and ad hoc events in the school, the pub and – oh yes! – the Village Hall.

A recent initiative from Sustainable South Hams, with much welcome support from SHDC, is requesting parishes to register their interest in some forthcoming "composting" trials. The first of these is a project on converting the old, now redundant, brown bins into a water butt or wormery. Anyone out there interested in accompanying me to a session on how to do this please call me 01803 712131.

"Farm Carbon Toolkit" helps farmers register the carbon captured by their soils, hedges and trees, potentially offering future carbon offset income for landowners managing their land sustainably. See farmcarbontoolkit.org.uk

Thermal survey of households is now possible due to the loan of a thermal imaging camera from SHDC. If you would like to understand where your home is losing heat, and your household energy bills might be reduced with installation of more insulation, draughtproofing etc. please do contact Sustainable Blackawton on 01803 712131 for a survey appointment.

Next meeting of Sustainable Blackawton is yet to be agreed but will be in early February, possibly Tuesday 6th February 2024. As ever, all are welcome to attend and to contribute to ideas.

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 visits to Blackawton will be on **Tuesday 2nd and 30th January** 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 Benzie 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 January:

Wednesday 3rd	The Willows, Torquay via Totnes
Friday 5th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 12th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 19th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 26th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Wednesday 31st	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**

Happy New Year to everyone, from Blackawton School! We've barely finished celebrating and already we are back to school with an early start this year on the 2nd of January.

Thank you to everyone who came to see the December Nativity concert, performed by Nursery and Class 1 (2 - 5 year old's) It certainly got us all into the Christmas spirit. The school rounded off 2023 with the annual Candlelit Christmas service, which saw a return of the candlelit procession around the village and into the church. The whole school, including children ages 5 – 11 put on a fabulous show with some entertaining lyrics to some old favourite Christmas Carols. Thank you to the Blackawton Carol singers who lead the way for a great Christmas Sing along. It really was a great finale to the month of December which saw the children enjoy making natural wreaths, a 'whole school together' Christmas dinner, festive math challenges, astronomy stop animation and lots more!

Thank you to Blackawton village shop for all the money raised through their Christmas raffle.

It takes a few of days to settle back into the swing of things, but there is, as always, lots going on this term. Year 4 will be visiting an Islamic Centre as part of the schools drive for cultural diversity. Forest School, including children of all ages have launched a programme to protect the White Spot moth. The White Spot Moth is endangered in these parts and the larvae feed on only one plant called Nottingham Catchfly. This plant is no longer common in this area, so we are working with The Local Habitat Group to plant more Nottingham Catchfly plants. If you would like to help encourage this species to Devon, please buy some seeds and plant them. Hopefully, by working together, we can save the White Spot Moth from extinction.

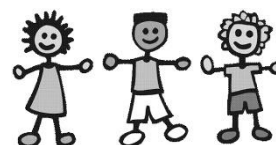
Our school lottery is now live and OPEN to ALL!

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).

Community Shop

from **Kate Purver**

Shop telephone: **01803 712157**. Email: 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

New Year's Day 10.00 am – 12.00 noon, shop only



Thank you to all our customers for your support over 2023; we hope that you'll continue to make good use of your community shop in the new year! We'd also like to say, once again, a huge thank-you to all our volunteers, who contribute so much and without whom we could not keep going. It was lovely to see so many people for our pre-Christmas drinks in the George.

And for a **new year, new ventures** ... would any more Beacon readers 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 volunteers 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 too – so it's a great way to meet new people and get to know all about village life!
- ❖ We currently need volunteers regularly on Saturdays 11 am - 1 pm, while on Thursdays the 9 - 11 am and 1 – 3 pm slots often need covering.
- ❖ 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.

Did you know...? Here are some of the things your community shop did over the last year (and continues to do). Any profits the shop makes must be put back into the shop or the community – so a thriving shop can help other parts of the community thrive too. As well as providing the village with a great place to buy basics, treats, great-quality fresh produce and a host of other things, in 2023 we:

- ✓ donated to local charities Dartmouth Caring and Dartmouth Community Chest;
- ✓ made donations towards projects being done by Sustainable Blackawton and the Playing Fields;
- ✓ ran fund-raising raffles in aid of the village food bank, our local schools and the Gara water vole project;
- ✓ contributed to the village fireworks via donations and home-made food sales;

- ✓ participated in Worm-Charming;
- ✓ opened late for Hallowe'en trick-or-treating;
- ✓ provided a warm, welcoming place for a cup of coffee and a chat;
- ✓ stocked craft and other products from makers in the village;
- ✓ ran social events for volunteers and partners;
- ✓ put on a wine-tasting event in the George;
- ✓ provided a recycling point for medical waste (currently we have a collection box for blister-packs);
- ✓ and the manager and assistant-manager posts continue to provide two part-time jobs for people in the village.

The lucky winner in our **Christmas raffle** was Linda Lord, with a hamper of food and wine worth £50; while the Old Vicarage, Otis Swan and Vera Ekers were equally festive winners respectively of prosecco, chocolates and a panettone. The proceeds enabled the shop to donate £75 each to Blackawton Primary School and Dartmouth Academy.

Happy 2024!



Wine of the Month Bin-End Bargains

This month we have **bin-end wines of the month** to tempt you – so not just one or two wines, but several, all at very competitive prices!

January is a month for spending less money and keeping warm at home – so look no further than your very own Community Shop to snap up some bargains and help you do just that.

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 Roof

from **Ruth Coe**

Most local people will know there has been a problem with the roof of this important community building, but may not know the extent of the problem. Deterioration of support structures, although repaired a few years ago by volunteers, meant not only was the roof leaking but there was risk of it becoming unsafe. It was decided by the village hall committee that this “problem”, imperative that it be addressed soon, should be converted into an “opportunity”, so planning was sought to raise the roof a little and construct an open roof internally, allowing more possibilities for the use of the hall. Planning permission was granted eventually, the parish council supported our application for grant funding of the roof materials from the developers S106 moneys, and a team of volunteer labour, managed by our amazing village hall chairman, was formed to do the work. Our chairman, Martin Joyce of TJD, has not only organised and managed this team of volunteers but, due to much bureaucratic delay, also funded materials which we are assured will be recompensed by the promised S106 fund. Joybey you are amazing, PLEASE never leave Blackawton!

Anyone seeing the work involved, over the last weekend in November, in stripping and reconstructing the roof, and the gable walls that also proved to be unsafe, will have been stunned that a small village not only has the skill set and ability, but also the commitment and dedication, to achieve such a mammoth task! Perhaps more volunteer labour might be forthcoming for the inevitable task of cleaning up and redecorating that will be necessary before this project is complete? **Please volunteer** if you can help with this when reconstruction is completed.

My reason for this article is to SHOUT from the rooftops a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone involved in this project – our Village Hall is a critical resource for Blackawton and we look forward to celebrating the re-opening as an important, fundamental, sustainable resource of this rural community.

Village Hall update

from **Adrian Kyte**

Work on the roof continues but even when it looks complete from the outside there is still a lot of work to do inside. Complete rewiring of the hall, refitting of all the heating, and other items to enable the work to be done. Even without a ceiling the space inside already looks to be an improvement on what we had before.

The Village Hall will remain unavailable throughout January. 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

Street lighting

A survey about street lighting is attached to this Beacon. Please let us know your views by **29th February**. Or you can respond online by going to **www.blackawtoncommunity.com**.

The Thoughts of Chairman Rake

from **Simon Rake**

Stuff and nonsense

On the whole, I'm generally a fairly cheery and optimistic sort of person; glass half full, tomorrow is another day and all that. But I know that hidden inside there is a grump, a grouch, a grinch. Over the years I have learned pretty well what triggers the emergence of my inner grump. The appearance of certain people on the radio or television (curiously, mostly politicians), for instance, can quickly drag thunderclouds across my sunny blue skies and lead to a brief period of rage and fury.

Unfortunately, and I hesitate to admit this, another thing that can set me off is Christmas. Not the family gatherings, carols, or food. Not even the ridiculous rom-coms about winsome individuals discovering 'the true meaning of Christmas' after a series of unfortunate events. No, all these things I can enjoy or at least tolerate. My annual yuletide trigger is the stuff. All the stuff. So much stuff. So I should have been on my guard when I recently found myself at a loose end in Exeter for the best part of a day. I could have done the sensible thing and whiled away the time at the excellent Royal Albert Memorial Museum, with its eclectic and entertaining collection of art, fossils, stuffed animals and Devon-related memorabilia. Instead, I wandered around the busy shopping streets, getting more and more enraged by the stuff.

For some reason I find Christmas stuff even more aggravating than usual stuff. This annual tsunami of objects decorated with ubiquitous motifs like holly leaves or reindeer, made in far-off lands where no holly has ever grown or reindeer ever trod, and then shipped here seemingly with the sole purpose of annoying me. I returned home feeling gloomy and irate, burdened down by the sheer weight of it all.

Luckily I was able to hasten my inner grinch's return to his lair with a corrective. I remembered an article from 2016 that said that whatever the evidence of my eyes in Exeter, we are actually consuming less stuff. I scuttled off to the Office of National Statistics (well, its website at least) to see if this hopeful trend had continued. To my delight it sort of has. It seems that we hit peak stuff in 2004 when the UK's consumption of raw materials hit 1.4 billion tonnes, the equivalent to a whopping 24.5 tonnes per person. By 2020 this figure had dropped to 14.2 tonnes per person, still a lot of stuff, when you think about it, but much less than at the peak. The figures also show that we are being smarter with how we use the stuff we use. At peak stuff we used 813 tonnes of raw materials to produce every £1 million of GDP. Now we generate the same amount of GDP with just 473 tonnes of stuff.

Of course there is further to go, and the figures only go up to 2020 so we don't yet know how we did through the upheaval of recent years. But the trend is downwards and there are many reasons to think this could continue: things are getting smaller, and we are getting smarter about how we design and manufacture

them (or get people in those faraway lands to manufacture them); we are getting better at replacing raw materials with recycled materials (not yet great, but better); and most importantly we are changing our behaviour. As consumers we are shifting from things (which need a lot of stuff) to experiences (which generally use less), as well as being more thoughtful about the things that we do consume. We are not just reducing our 14 tonnes, but using them more wisely.

So, I have cheered up and learned my lesson. I promise to be less angry and judgmental about Christmas jumpers and holly-bedecked nick-nacks. And next time, I will spend my idle hours in Exeter looking at stuffed giraffes and not just at stuff. I might still shout at those people on the telly though.

I hope that the New Year brings you all the things and experiences you could wish for.

Blackawton Parish Council meeting

from **Annette Thom**, Parish Clerk

Notes of the Meeting of Blackawton Parish Council held on Tuesday 5th December 2023 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 members of the public present.

Present: Parish & South Hams District Cllr Rake (Chair), Parish Cllrs Oughton (Vice-Chair), Coe, Luckens, Mardon, 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 Hadow.

Declarations of Interest

None declared.

Report from South Hams District Council Councillor

Cllr Rake said that today, 5th December, is International Volunteers Day and thanked Parish Councillors for being volunteers.

Cllr Rake discussed recent progress in the appeal of SHDC decisions to refuse applications to develop the Dairy Crest site in Totnes. There is a proposal to drop one of two appeals (because the required information has been provided subject to a satisfactory S106). Only an outline planning permission has been applied for. The Totnes Community Development Society is concerned that the project is too complicated for the development to progress. We are awaiting the Inspector's decision.

There is a vote next week regarding Plymouth and South Devon Freeport sites in Plymouth Docks, Sherford, and Langan.

A deal has been agreed in principle for a devolution deal for Devon. It will be considered by Devon County Council on 19 December. DCC and Torbay Councils would become a combined authority. Spending on skills and training and business development would be transferred to the combined authority. The specific details of the offer remain to be determined.

The changeover by SHDC to the new waste system appears to be going smoothly. Cllr Rake has only received a couple of queries.

Report from Devon County Council Councillor

Cllr Brazil suggested BPC progress with the project to consult the community about whether to change Blackawton's street lighting and to then give DCC a request about which lights Blackawton wants on or off, and for what hours. Cllr Brazil said to be careful with the wording of the consultation because DCC may not agree to implement the request.

There is currently no Slapton Line meeting scheduled. They are waiting for a DCC Highways' Planning Report. The Adaptation Plan needs to progress. There is some money to improve back roads and an extra £6.6 million has been received from Government for all of Devon's highways.

Cllr Brazil was asked to investigate the street light next to 1 Tumbling Fields which has been left on for many weeks.

There is a special Cabinet meeting on 19 December regarding a Devon Devolution Deal. Details of the proposal are to follow. A consultation will start after the meeting.

There is a consultation about parking meters being installed in Dartmouth which will run from 7 December to 7 January.

Planning Applications

SHDC Planning Decisions

2714/23/FUL Balsam Farm Vicarage Road Blackawton TQ9 7AY. Application to convert an outbuilding to ancillary living accommodation, revised proposal to application 3855/22/FUL to replace obscured glazed windows proposed to South elevation with timber boarded

windows & reduce level of excavation at rear to form access to the garden. **Conditional Approval.**

2815/23/FUL West Hartley Bungalow Blackawton TQ9 7DH. Provision of replacement dwelling. **Conditional Approval.**

3382/23/PDM Land At SX801505 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)). **Prior Approval Given.**

2914/23/ARC Watsons Farm Blackawton TQ9 7AZ. Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 7 (Roof, hardstanding & external wall materials/finishes) & 11 (DEV32) of planning consent 1709/22/FUL. **Discharge of condition Approved.**

Review of New Applications

3673/23/FUL The Old Dairy, North Millcombe Farm Blackawton Totnes TQ9 7AE. Replacement dwelling following Class Q approval, including landscaping & engineering works. **Support.** Cllr Rake abstained from the vote.

Cemetery Management

It was resolved to approve the revised Cemetery management proposal document and the Grounds Maintenance Specifications & Contract. The Clerk was delegated authority to decide the tree to plant in replacement of the removed dead ash in consultation with Cllrs Hadow and Coe.

Churchyard Grounds Maintenance

The completion of 2023 works was confirmed with the exception of the path and gate from School Lane into the Churchyard. The contractor will be asked to do that work when next in the village.

Maintenance of the Closed Churchyard

The Report on the Clerk and Cllr Rake's site meeting with an SHDC Officer was discussed. It was arranged to help Cllrs to prepare to make an informed decision if a request is received from the PCC for BPC to take legal responsibility for the maintenance of the closed St Michael's churchyard.

Community Consultation about Street Lighting in Blackawton

DCC has not made progress with reviewing its Street Lighting Policy - which BPC has been waiting for. It was decided, as recommended by DCC Cllr Brazil, to proceed with a community consultation. The results of that consultation will then be used to propose to DCC a 12-month trial of the preferred change, if any. Options: a) lighting remains as is, b) lighting from the Normandy Arms corner to the Millcombe Corner as is, with other village street lights removed, c) no street lighting in the village, d) Other. The consultation will be added to the January Beacon for distribution. There will be an online form. Paper forms can be returned to the Community Shop and to The George Inn if the publican wishes. The results will be used to make a request to DCC to trial the preferred option for 12 months, if a change is requested by the majority of respondents. BPC will not know in advance if DCC will agree to the request.

Thermal Imaging Camera Hire from SHDC

Sustainable Blackawton has borrowed a camera from SHDC. It is available to survey houses in the Parish. Cllr Coe is a contact and will write an article for the Beacon offering a survey to those who want their house done.

Finance

Update on Current Financial Position. The Reports showed a total balance of £58,575.21 and unearmarked general fund of £15,528.79.

Payments & Receipts. Payments authorised:

Clerk, Expenses reimbursement £29.48

Pittman Trees, Removal of ash £180.00

Parish Lengthsman, 17/5-4/11/23 £793.50

BPC will request allocation of 11 July and 19 September visits to the DCC grant funded works.

23/24 Salary Award. The Award was noted and it will be implemented as per the contract.

Draft Budget 2024/25. The draft budget was discussed. The Clerk was asked to budget for grant allocations of up to £1,000, works to the Cemetery wall £1,500, an allocation to the Clerk's contracted sick leave reserve, and to include grounds maintenance in the churchyard. The precept requirement will be calculated on that basis.

Correspondence

The following training was noted and recommended:

16/11/23, SHDC, Planning training town and parish councils, 24 January, 4.00pm-7.00pm, On-line.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 9th January 2024** at 7.30 pm. 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	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

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

Dartmouth Caring

from Nick Hindmarsh

Useful information about what we offer

Clubs/activities

Memory Café – between 10.30 and 12.30 every Tuesday.

Lunch Club - every Wednesday 12.00 and 14.00.

Visually Impaired Reading Group (VIP) – the first Thursday of every month from 14.00-16.00.

Bereavement Group – please contact Celia Stevens if interested, this is not an ‘open’ group.

AA, Alcoholics Anonymous – meeting in our café space every Thursday at 18.30.

Table top gaming group – open to all aged 18+, taking place every Wednesday from 18:00 – 21:00.

Dough Bros – men’s sour dough pizza-making group Mondays 18.00-20.00.

Other services

Benefit and housing advice and support

Dementia advice

Carer support

Patient Transport

Palliative and Oncology Care Service – in partnership with Dartmouth Medical Practice

Social Prescribing – in partnership with Dartmouth Medical Practice

Citizens’ Advice – every Tuesday afternoon from 13.00-16.00

Ukrainian Families Support – once a month on Tuesday afternoons

Home Help Service

Counselling

Home from Hospital support – to assist patients on discharge

Shopping and Prescription deliveries

The Friday Hub and Townstal Community Hall – a warm supportive space in the community

Gardening – managing the garden area here for all users, staff, patients and clients.

Services to follow in the coming months

Mums and Tots – likely to be a day time activity – still in the planning stage

Souper Thursday – Soup and a roll lunch club

Drop in space – will start once we have sourced sufficient volunteers.

For more information, or to access any of these services, please contact us on **01803 835384**, or email **enquiries@dartmouthcaring.co.uk**, or visit our website at **www.dartmouthcaring.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** for more information and to arrange to be welcomed to a trial meeting.

Our meeting in January is:

Wednesday 6th lunch Earl Connolly: A Train Journey in Miniature

The Club AGM will follow the talk at about 12.15, with lunch at about 1.00 pm.

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 February edition is **Monday 22nd January**.

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

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Parish Diary

January 2024

Tuesday 2nd	11.55 am	Mobile library	Bus shelter
Wednesday 3rd	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to The Willows via Totnes	Bus shelter
Friday 5th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Tuesday 9th	7.30 pm	Blackawton Parish Council meeting	Church
Friday 12th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Wednesday 17th	10.30 am	Blackawton WI meeting	Sportsmans Arms
Friday 19th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Monday 22nd		Deadline for February Beacon	
Friday 26th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Tuesday 30th	11.55 am	Mobile library	Bus shelter
Wednesday 31st	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Newton Abbot via Totnes	Bus shelter

February 2024

Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd	7.30 pm	BADS pantomime <i>Sleeping Beauty</i>	Village Hall or Church
Saturday 3rd	8.00 pm	Scott's Open Mic Night	The George Inn



We wish all our readers a
Happy New Year



Blackawton Parish Council

Street Lighting Survey

One issue frequently raised with the Parish Council is whether we should seek to change the arrangements for street lighting in the village.

There are good arguments both for change and for maintaining the status quo. It is clear that removing the street lighting would save energy and reduce light pollution in this rural setting. For certain residents, street lights have a direct effect inside their homes, which can be difficult to deal with. On the other hand, the street lights can be considered as enhancing road safety in the village and general security, and as enabling safer walking and cycling.

It should also be borne in mind that the final decision on any change to street lighting would be taken by Devon County Council, who may prove unwilling to make any changes irrespective of how much support any given proposal receives. However, evidence of support for a proposal would lend weight to any request.

The first step is therefore to ask you for your opinion about Blackawton's street lights and whether change is desirable.

In broad terms we would like you to consider three possible options that have been suggested:

- 1) Leaving things as they are.
- 2) Removing street lights apart from those on Main Street & Vicarage Road between The Normandy and Millcombe Corner (more or less the bus stop to the village hall).
- 3) Removing all street lights.
- 4) Retaining street lights but reducing the hours of use.

In an ideal world, we would be able to 'trial' a change by turning the relevant lights off for a period over the coming year but leaving them in place. Again this would depend on DCC and thus on the levels of support or opposition that you express through this survey.

We would welcome your views below, or on the online form that will be available on the website by the time you read this (the online form makes it easier for us, as it saves on data entry). As this is only the first part of the process, we have kept the questionnaire short. Depending on the replies we receive, more detailed consultation may be carried out.

1) Do you think that Blackawton's Street Lighting should:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| a. Remain the same | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Be retained in part of the village, but removed elsewhere | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Be removed entirely | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Be retained but be lit for a shorter period | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2) If you answered "Be retained in part of the village but removed elsewhere", please indicate where you think street lights should be retained:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| a. Between the Normandy and Millcombe Corner as described | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Other (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- Please make any additional comments in the box below.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Blackawton Beacon January 2024