



Blackawton Beacon

January 2025

published jointly by the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council



PANTOMIME

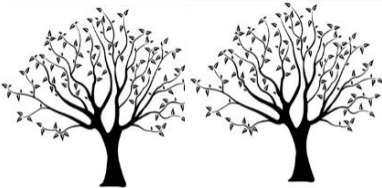


“Wood Side Story”

**in the Village Hall
on Friday 31st January
& Saturday 1st February 2025**

Tickets will be on sale shortly

If you have any queries, please contact kate.janman@gmail.com or ring 01803 712362



Blackawton Wassail 2025

Friday 17th January at 6.30 pm

The Community Orchard

What is wassailing? It's an old English tradition to wish for a good harvest for the orchard. It often takes place on Old Twelfth Night - 17th January. Each village had its own wassailing traditions, involved hanging toast on the trees, pouring cider on their roots, or making a racket to ward away bad spirits!

For us, it's a fun way to bring a bit of warmth and cheer to chilly January, and celebrate our lovely orchard. We look forward to seeing you there! **Join us for a bbq, drinks and a candle-lit procession to the oldest apple tree in the orchard - all ages welcome!**

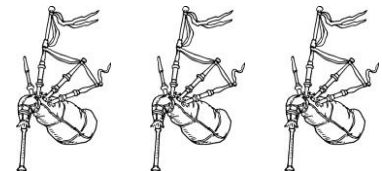
Bring:

- Donations for the bbq and bar - all proceeds will go towards maintaining the play park and meadow.
- A pan and spoon, or something similar, for making a racket to scare off evil spirits.
- A wassail mask (optional) - Best homemade mask wins a prize (theme: Spirits of the orchard). Mask templates available from the Community Shop.

Any questions email: playingfields@blackawtoncommunity.com

Burns Night

Saturday 25th January at 8.00 pm



A warm welcome awaits you at our newly refurbished Village Hall with a two-course dinner (vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options available), traditional Burns poetry, a wee dram and disco. The Village Hall bar will be open.

Raising money for Blackawton Fireworks

Tickets £25 pp, available from the Village Shop. Must be purchased in advance.

Book early to avoid disappointment!

St Michael's Church

Services for January

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>
Sunday 5th	9.30 am	Holy Communion (by extension)
Tuesdays 7th, 12th, 19th, 26th	9.00 am	Connect! A 15-minute opportunity to connect with God – and have a coffee.
Sunday 12th	9.30 am	Morning Worship
Sunday 19th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 26th	9.30 am	Breakfast Church

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.

Church flowers

from **Val Harding**

Many thanks to all who have given donations and helped with the flower rota and decorating this year.

If there is anyone who would like to join us please let me know.

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.**

Our church team

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

Village Life

BADS Panto Raffle

from **Carey Burton**

It's Panto time!!! Oh yes it is!!!

I am collecting for the BADs Pantomime raffles. I am after any suitable items for the raffles, which will be drawn at both performances. Please drop items off in the porch of Ruby House (grey/blue house on left as you go down Vicarage Road towards the Village Hall). After expenses, profits benefit local/village worthy causes. Do come along and see if you can win your donation back! **The raffle will be cash only.**

From our MP

from **Caroline Voaden**

Happy New Year! I hope you've all had a merry Christmas with loved ones and have sufficiently recovered from any excesses indulged in over the holiday season, ready to tackle whatever 2025 has in store. I, for one, hope it will be less tumultuous than the 12 months just gone. The year of elections proved to be as disruptive as many expected, with governments and regions around the world changing political hands, and much uncertainty looming.

A small part of that was my election here in South Devon, which marked the first time in over 100 years that our area has not elected a Conservative MP. Taking on this responsibility has been the honour of my life, and while I'm proud of what we've achieved so far, I know there's still so much more to do to improve our public services and make your lives better.

So, in the spirit of the new year, I want to set out three resolutions for myself and my work in 2025.

Firstly, I want to continue making progress in my role on the Education Select Committee. Since my appointment in October, I've been busy raising many of the concerns I heard from teachers during my visit to Blackawton Primary School. Addressing teacher retention, creativity in the curriculum, SEND funding, and the regional disparity in our current education funding formula are all high on the agenda for me.

Secondly, I want 2025 to be the year that the government finally tackles NHS dentistry, the current state of which gives a new definition to the word 'broken'. For instance, did you know that one in six people in Devon do not have a dentist? And that NHS dentistry has practically ceased to exist in the county. The government cannot allow this to become the status quo and I'll be pushing them to reform the dental contract and take the urgent steps we need now to stop this spiralling crisis. I'll be looking at how we can address this locally too.

Finally, I hope community energy projects like Sustainable Blackawton will make progress. I'm inspired by local groups like this who are coming up with innovative projects to address the climate crisis, and I was pleased to get the chance to speak about yours in the House of Commons. South Devon is full of ideas and innovation – and more must be done to make it easier, simpler, and faster to get community energy projects off the ground. I'll continue to do all I can to make sure this happens.

Blackawton WI

from **Sandra Tope**

We hope you all had a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. We seem to spend a lot of time preparing for the big day and then it's all gone by in a flash! We held our Christmas Party at The Old Inn, Halwell, attended by most of our members. We enjoyed a lovely meal, complete with cracker pulling and a raffle.

The New Year will start for the WI with our traditional walk, this year will be around Little Dartmouth and then followed by a meal at Sportsmans Arms. It is a good chance to catch up with members plus partners/husbands after Christmas. Our January meeting will be held on 15th January, at 10.30 am in the Village Hall. Our speaker is Felicity Goodall, on Street children of Myanmar. The competition is for a miniature table decoration as well as the usual Bloom of the Month.

The WI gives you the opportunity to meet like-minded people, from all backgrounds, to make new friends and learn new skills. Your first meeting is free, so come along and see what we get up to! Everyone welcome! For more information call Sue **01803 712145** or Sandra **01803 712622**.

Tree warden

from **Bob Harvey**

Christmas Trees. Maybe a bit late, but probably before you've cleared Christmas away.

The first known reference to Christmas trees is probably in the Bible, Jeremiah 10 " ... for one cutteth a tree out of the forest. They deck it with silver and with gold." Germany, from as early as 1539 was the source of our current custom. Charlotte, wife of George III, had a Christmas Tree placed at Windsor in 1800, and this was reinforced by Prince Albert starting in 1840. Mistletoe was revered by the Druids, recorded by the Roman, Pliny, in about AD 50.

The significance of evergreens such as firs, holly and ivy is probably due to their being a symbol that, from the winter solstice, the days get longer and the world will once more become green and pleasant.

Bridge taster sessions

from **Ruth Coe**

Are you interested in learning to play bridge, or improving your skills? If so, please come along to our introductory session at **The George Inn on Wednesday 15th January** from 6.00 pm.

Do come along if you love cards and would like to try this best of all card games. Everyone welcome – if you can play whist-type games you can soon learn the basics of bridge.

If you are an experienced bridge player and would like to help then you are also very welcome!

If you have any questions please let me know – Ruth Coe **07845 598658**.

Sustainable Blackawton

from **Ruth Coe**

We have a meeting planned for **Monday 13th January 2025 at 7.30 pm** in The George Inn. Anyone with any interest in sustainability, environment, or biodiversity is welcome to come along. Agenda topics: bank account (fees); "composting club" model; community energy; financing projects; any others?

Myth-busting guide to Renewable Energy

Solar energy has been installed throughout Blackawton parish over recent years, but many myths still exist about this renewable energy source, here we continue to "bust" some of those myths:

Myth: solar panels will use too much countryside & farmland. **Fact:** To achieve net zero, solar would only need to cover 0.3% of our land. Solar farms currently occupy less than 0.1% of the UK's land. Even when using the higher estimates of how much solar energy we need to meet net zero by 2050, solar farms would only cover 0.3% of the UK or 0.5% of all farmland – less than golf courses. Solar has a relatively small land footprint, leaving space for other uses like animal grazing around the panels. Planning guidance also helps to ensure that solar development mainly occurs on lower-grade agricultural land. Additionally, solar development helps farmers by providing another stable source of income. Most would agree that large, south-facing roofs should be used wherever possible to increase the amount of installed solar photo-voltaic panels. Barns, offices, churches and business premises are prime sites for consideration. In France all large car-parks (eg. super-markets) are required by law to cover parking spaces with solar panels, providing shade and shelter as well! Great idea!

Myth: Solar panels permanently turn the land into brownfield land. **Fact:** Solar farms are temporary structures and land returns to its original use afterwards. Solar does **not** turn the land into brownfield land or make it more suitable for other uses such as housing. In the UK, most solar farms have temporary planning permission, typically for 30 years, with legal conditions ensuring that the developer returns the land to its original use (e.g. farmland) afterwards. Using a field as a solar farm for this temporary period also provides an opportunity for land restoration, leaving it to rest “fallow” without fertiliser, pesticide or herbicide.

Myth: Solar is bad for biodiversity. **Fact:** Solar farms can help support a range of plants and wildlife, and benefit local biodiversity and wildlife by improving the range of plants within and around the fields. Research has identified that solar farms can play a key role in supporting pollinators such as bees and moths by providing opportunities to create a variety of habitats.

Myth: No farm activities can occur on solar farms. **Fact:** Animals, most commonly sheep, can graze and browse around solar farms. This is good for the welfare of the sheep and helps manage vegetation growth, preventing shading of the solar panels.

Myth: Solar energy only works in the summer. **Fact:** Solar does generate more electricity in spring and summer, but it produces power all year. Solar panels rely on the sun's light, not heat. Even on overcast days, solar panels can generate electricity as they still collect sunlight. Even in the short days of bleak winter months solar PV generates electricity, though at reduced performance. For example, at one point in February 2022, solar generated more than 20% of the UK's electricity.

A brief note on Community-endorsed energy: these projects give local people the chance to own or control clean power generation, and work with their neighbours to lower bills and reduce energy demand too. Schemes in the UK already generate 617 GWh of clean energy – enough to power more than 220,000 homes – and have supported householders to make annual savings of nearly £4.5 million, as well as reducing UK carbon emissions.

A year in a Blackawton garden

With December and January comes an endless process of weeding and then mulching before the bulbs start showing and make this more difficult. Last Winter, I was persuaded by gardening opinion to leave most of the perennials uncut, dead and drooping as homes for insects. We suffered seeing the mess until March/April. After all that, the wet Winter apparently scuppered the insect population anyway. This year I have been more ruthless with the clearing and the garden is looking much better for it. There is still plenty of vegetation in a mild, sheltered South West garden for the wildlife.

I have also been more ruthless in removing the plants which have self-seeded or simply will not keep under control in the rich soil. The Hollyhocks which grew to about three metres have come out, as have the Gaura which was smothering everything around it. Hopefully, the Gaura will do better in a shallow pot with spent compost. Most of the Crocosmia Lucifer has also gone. It needs more space than I can give it for the leaves to flop over all summer.

We have a Mahonia at the front of the house. Its spikes of yellow scented flowers have been lighting up the dark days for weeks and are a favourite of the queen bumble bees which are still around. The hellebores are starting to show buds and some bulbs are poking through. So just when I thought the garden was going to sleep, it is starting to wake up again.

In the house, I have indulged in Narcissus Paperwhite which grows to flower incredibly quickly and fill the room with scent. Some I planted in October have finished. More are flowering now. Others have just been planted. And more are waiting in their paper bags to go in vases filled with pebbles to extend the season.

from Jill Kelly



Meanwhile, I have not quite completed planting bulbs. The end of season low prices are too attractive. I am expecting 150 ultra cheap white Narcissus Thalia bulbs in January. We will see how they flower planted so late.

Blackawton Allotment Association

from **Jill Kelly**

It is likely that there will be plots available for the next allotment year which starts in March. So look out your gardening gloves and contact: allotments@blackawtoncommunity.com.

West Dart Bus



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:

Friday 3rd	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Wednesday 8th	The Willows, Torquay via Totnes
Friday 10th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 17th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 24th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Wednesday 29th	Newton Abbot via Totnes
Friday 31st	Dartmouth via Dittisham

All trips depart from Blackawton Bus Shelter at 9.30 am. Return trips depart at 12.30 pm and arrive in Blackawton between 12.45 and 1.00 pm.

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

We need more drivers. Please ring Claudia on 07712 210300 for more information.

Village Hall

from **Adrian Kyte**

January events

Blackawton Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 7th at 7.30 pm

WI Monthly Meeting Wednesday 15th at 10.30 am.

Blackawton Wassail Friday 17th, 4.00 to 11.00 pm. Planned to be in the orchard but in the hall if weather is bad. See posters for more information.

Dartmouth YFC Quiz Night Friday 24th, 6.00 to 10.00 pm. See posters for more information.

Burns Night Saturday 25th. Doors open 8.00 pm – 11.45 pm. See posters for more information.

BADS Pantomime tech. rehearsals Tuesday 28th & Wednesday 29th at 5.00 pm.

BADS Pantomime dress rehearsal Thursday 30th at 5.00 pm.

BADS Pantomime performances Friday 31st & Saturday 1st February. Doors open 7.00 pm.

Weekly events

BADS panto rehearsals Sundays 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th at 3.00 pm.

Hatha Yoga Class with Hannah Roberts (07951 079608)

Tuesdays 21st & 28th at 6.00 – 7.15 pm

Wednesdays 22nd & 29th at 9.00 – 10.15 am

Chair Yoga Wednesdays 22nd & 29th at 10.30 – 11.30 am

Hall Booking

The best way to check availability and make a provisional booking of the Village Hall is to use the interactive calendar at the bottom of the page on the community website blackawtoncommunity.com/community-page/blackawton-village-hall. This page also gives an overview of our facilities and hire rates for various types of event, as well as a link to the Conditions of Hire.

If you don't have internet access, please complete a paper booking form available from the Village Shop and place it in the letter box near the Hall's main entrance.

However your make your booking please don't enter into any other commitments until the booking is confirmed. All Thursday bookings are at risk of cancellation should a surprise election be called. All bookings require a security deposit.

Hire of furniture and crockery

Village Hall furniture and crockery can be hired if not in use at the Hall. Details of what is available are on the hall website. Requests should be made to villagehall@blackawtoncommunity.com.

Car Parking

Quite a few cars are now regularly using the Village Hall car park and normally this is not a problem but when there is an event at the hall the committee request that you park elsewhere. The dates concerned this month are Saturday Morning 11th, Friday evenings 17th & 24th, Saturday evening 25th and every evening from 5.00 p.m. Tuesday 28th to Saturday 1st February.

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



The shop starts 2025 with a different team from the one we began 2024 with – over the past year we've seen a change of assistant manager, and then a change of manager. Some valued volunteers have moved on - but others have stepped up to join our team. Things gradually evolve! It's always great to welcome new people.

As ever, huge thanks to all of our fantastic volunteer team, who keep the shop going in so many ways. If you think you might like to join us - get involved, bring some ideas or help out with the Community Shop in any way in the coming year - please get in touch!

Wines of the Month



January is **bargain** time for both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. We'll have a range of tempting offers in the wine basket this month.

Sharpham White will be on offer while stocks last - down from £15.95 to **£13**.

And look out for other wine bargains too as the month progresses: Wine bin-ends all at **£6.50** (last few bottles of each!)

For those of you keeping dry January, we have a delicious Sanford Red Zero non-alcoholic cider – also a bargain (reduced to **£2.20**). And there'll be goodies from Belvoir Cordials, including non-alcoholic cocktails to cheer you through the month!

From all at the shop, thank you for your support - we hope you have a fabulous new year, and look forward to seeing you in 2025.

Parish Council

The Thoughts of Chairman Rake

from **Simon Rake**

Power to the people!

Well, first of all, a Happy New Year to everyone. Regular readers of these words (both of you) will have worked out that I am generally of an optimistic, glass-half-full, butter-side-up sort of disposition, but maintaining a sunny and positive attitude can be hard work at times. As we start the new year the

international situation looks bleak, the national situation barely any rosier and the looming mega-threats to life on earth seem more urgent than ever before.

There are a number of possible responses to the gloom and I suppose that they could all be argued to be rational in their way. One might involve setting up trip-wires in your garden and a heavy investment in canned food. Perhaps a small bunker if space permits. At the other end of the scale, one might sink into impotent despair, disconnecting as far as possible from the world around. A third option can be summed up in the phrase coined by Patrick Geddes more than a century ago: ‘think globally, act locally’. This encourages us to take account of the big picture issues but to express our response to them in our immediate surroundings, to take effect where we can have effect.

Although I sometimes flirt with the route of impotent despair, I’m mainly a third option kinda guy. My work with the Parish Council and more recently the District Council has furnished me with the privilege of seeing just what individuals and communities can achieve when they act locally. Sure, in the grand scheme of things, this may only be a drop in the ocean, but then again drops are exactly what oceans are made up of. Lots of them!

Local communities are very good at seeing what is needed and, with the right support, providing it. Sometimes this means fixing a problem (the Village Hall roof springs to mind), other times it can mean providing a new facility or service that adds to the local area.

Local government, when and if it works right, should be able to support and facilitate these efforts and at the same time provide the services that individual communities can’t provide on their own. The best way for Councils to do this is to be as close as possible to their communities. Councillors should be (and I hope are in most cases) known, accessible and responsive. We should offer a direct link between people and the services and support they need and want. At present our Parish Council has 7 Councillors covering around 500 households between them, the District Council has 31 Councillors with around 2,000 households each and the County Council 60 Councillors each responsible for 5,000 households. Maybe it is just habit, but somehow these figures, and the structure they describe, feel about right.

Which is why I am more than a bit alarmed by the government’s new proposals for re-organisation of local government. The main thrust of these is to push towards the creation of unitary authorities – combining current County and District Council functions. This will create larger, more complex authorities with local councillors either representing many more households or the councils themselves having many more members, which would risk making them unwieldy. We would risk losing the direct connection between local government and the communities it is meant to serve. At the same time, experience suggests that Parish Councils would be called upon to fill gaps left by the shift – this is something that has been happening for some time anyway but could accelerate.

Granted, the proposals also bring a degree of devolution from central to local government, which I think is to be welcomed. But unless some way is found to maintain the contact between councillors and constituents – the governing and the governed – then this risks just shifting control from one remote, unaccountable body to another. Communities, especially rural communities, work best when they can ‘act local’ (whether or not they ‘think global’ whilst doing so). In my view, any change that impedes this by shifting power ‘up and away’ is to be resisted.

Blackawton Parish Council meeting

from **Annette Thom**

Notes of the Meeting of Blackawton Parish Council held on Tuesday 3 December 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Blackawton. Complete minutes can be read at www.blackawtoncommunity.com or the parish noticeboard.

Present: Parish & South Hams District Cllr Rake (Chair), Parish Cllrs Coe, Hadow, Luckens, Oughton (Vice-Chair) and Thomas. There were no members of the public present.

Absent: DCC Cllr Brazil, Parish Cllr Mardon, and Clerk A Thom.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from DCC Cllr Brazil, Parish Cllr Mardon, and Clerk A Thom.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Coe declared an other registerable interest in Item 13, as a member of Sustainable Blackawton.

Report from South Hams District Council Councillor

Cllr Rake stated that the South Hams Festival proposed for mid 2025 is likely to be postponed until 2026, to provide more time to improve engagement with, and commitment from, parishes and towns. He also reported that in consultation with South Hams towns the planned revision of car parking charges had not been well received, and that the proposals were now being “watered down”. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to reinstate “French Furze” as an ongoing BPC agenda item.

Report from Devon County Council Councillor

In the absence of DCC Cllr Brazil no report was provided.

Memorial Safety Inspection

It was explained that the planned safety inspection had been postponed as insufficient notice would have been provided to Parishioners. BPC's Policy states that notices will be placed at all entrances a minimum of three months prior to inspection taking place. Cllr Thomas questioned the rationale for this lengthy time period and expressed a view that the most important time to have notices visible was whilst inspections were actually taking place. It was agreed to review this element of the policy at a future meeting. In the meantime, it was agreed that we need to balance safety and notice, and a process was agreed to produce amended notices (explaining what and why testing is undertaken) and to display these appropriately ahead of testing in the Churchyard and the Cemetery later in December.

Tree Risk Assessment Survey

It was agreed that this should be scheduled for spring/summer 2025. Consideration should also be given to including the fruit trees in the Community Field.

Cemetery Fees

It was resolved to adopt the three additional recommendations as presented in Cllr Thomas' Report (proposed revised charges to purchase an exclusive right of burial, to offer double cremation area plots, and to update all cemetery charges on 1 April each year in line with CPI from previous September and rounded to nearest £5). It was again noted that there remain other outstanding cemetery issues highlighted in the Clerk's earlier report which still need to be addressed – primarily who qualifies to be buried in the cemetery and at what fee level (single or double).

Cemetery Hedge Cutting

It was agreed that that the top and road side of the cemetery hedge should be cut in January/February 2025. Prior to that, Cllr Hadow will identify and mark a small number (possibly 5-6) trees in the hedge which are not to be cut. She will produce a map showing these trees so that a walkabout can be undertaken with the contractor.

Legal responsibility for the Maintenance of the closed Churchyard

SHDC has advised that the matter of whether SHDC would accept responsibility if asked to by BPC is now with its lawyers, that if SHDC ultimately takes on the maintenance this will require a 12 month lead-in, and that BPC should budget and plan accordingly.

Grounds Maintenance Contract Term and Specifications

It was resolved to adopt the Clerk's proposal of an initial one year term with a possible three year extension. Other elements of the specification to remain unchanged.

Blackawton Community Composting Site

The approval of the planning application was noted. Cllr Coe stated that the proposal is supported by both the Playing Fields and the Village community groups and that the project will be managed by Sustainable Blackawton. She has already asked one local tradesperson to provide a quote for construction of the composting bays and would welcome further quotes. Interest has been registered in possible grant funding from SHDC, but this cannot proceed further until costs are known.

Government Consultation – Remote Council Meetings and Proxy Voting

It was resolved that BPC should express its support for remote meetings and proxy voting as possible means of conducting BPC business. Cllr Rake will discuss how we respond with the Clerk.

New Footpath from Greenslade Road

Cllrs who have visited the site stated that a "bridge" over the stream does exist although the water-bearing tunnel beneath may be too small to cope with heavy flows. The more immediate issue is the boggy area on the west side of the stream. BPC should consider possible solutions (possibly grading with aggregate) and funding to improve this area.

Finance

Financial Report. The financial Report was reviewed and noted. The Reserves Report showed total funds of £61,908.45 and an unearmarked general reserve of £21,671.86 at 30 November 2024.

Payments and receipts. It was resolved to authorise the following payments:

Blackawton memorial wreath	£20.00
Parish Lengthsman May 2024	£149.50

Payments since the previous meeting were noted:

Cemetery frequent cut 14 October 2024	£108.00
Churchyard frequent cut 14 October 2024	£102.00
Parish On-line Subscription annual fee	£58.80

Clerk's expenses reimbursement claim (November) £34.96

Expenditure incurred since the last monthly meeting but not yet invoiced was noted:

Basic check of Parish website against the new accessibility standard,
contrast levels, & colour-blindness simulator £80.00

Also noted were the following outstanding payments to be paid before the next meeting:

Tindle Newspapers, Advert for Grounds maintenance contract £168.00

Cllr Haddow, Reimbursement for purchase of yellow rattle seed £50.00

Draft 25/26 Budget. Cllr Rake stated that the "stand still" budget shows a £21 thousand pound shortfall of expenditure over income. Some additional income, yet to be quantified, will arise from double Council Tax on second homes and consideration should be given to increasing the precept. In addition to the five projects identified by Councillors at the last meeting for potential inclusion in the budget, the Clerk has added:

- possible removal of fir tree from the Churchyard
 - possible works to the avenue of cherry trees in the Churchyard
 - possible transfer of the Blackawton community website to a .gov.uk website
 - refurbishment of the Churchyard's gates
 - the Churchyard's walls need to be assessed
 - possible improvement to street lighting near the junction of School Lane and Park Lane
- Councillors are requested to consider the various options ahead of the next BPC meeting. An additional BPC meeting to finalise the budget was scheduled for 7.30 pm on 21 January 2025.

Local Government Pay Award 2024/25. The new Award and its implementation were noted.

Appointment of Second RFO. It was resolved to appoint Cllr Luckens to the role of Second RFO (unpaid).

Personnel Committee & Subcommittee

It was resolved to establish a Personnel Committee comprising Cllrs Rake, Oughton and Hadow/Mardon (alternating) and to adopt the proposed Terms of Reference for a Personnel Committee and a Personnel Subcommittee with the Village Hall as the nominated meeting place. The initial priority will be to review, in conjunction the Clerk, the Clerk's workload and hours.

Closure of the Meeting

In accordance with the 1960 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, it was resolved to exclude the public and press during consideration of the following item because the business relates to consideration of employment and personnel matters.

Employment Matter

Cllr Rake provided an update regarding the Clerk and it was resolved to agree to the Clerk's request to take leave against the annual leave allowance from 9 December until 13 December (inclusive).

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 7th January 2025** at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. 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
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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

CHSW Christmas Fair

from Sue Tweed

Thank you to everyone who braved the storm on Saturday 7th December to support Children's Hospice South West's Christmas Fair in the Market in Dartmouth. Although a slightly reduced size we were amazed at the wonderful turn-out of people from near and further to make the event worthwhile, including the excellent singers of Dartmouth Rock Choir. And worthwhile it certainly was as we raised the brilliant total of £1,000 for the charity – much-needed funding in difficult times for charities who, like businesses, are having to cope with increased costs for National Insurance payments for staff for example. Thank you to our stallholders, volunteers, friends who helped, and the kind people making donations – it was truly heartwarming – thank you all. Happy New Year.

from the Editor

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

Please send your Beacon contributions by email to beacon@blackawtoncommunity.com. Contributions on paper can be posted to, or dropped off at, 1 The Cross, Park Lane, Blackawton, TQ9 7BD. The deadline for the February edition is **Tuesday 21st 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 2025

Friday 3rd	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Sunday 5th	3.00 pm	BADS panto rehearsal	Village Hall
Tuesday 7th	7.30 pm	Blackawton Parish Council meeting	Village Hall
Wednesday 8th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to The Willows via Totnes	Bus shelter
Friday 10th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Sunday 12th	3.00 pm	BADS panto rehearsal	Village Hall
Monday 13th	7.30 pm	Sustainable Blackawton meeting	The George Inn
Wednesday 15th	10.30 am	Blackawton WI meeting	Village Hall
	6.00 pm	Bridge taster sessions	The George Inn
Friday 17th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
	6.30 pm	Blackawton wassailing	Community orchard
Sunday 19th	3.00 pm	BADS panto rehearsal	Village Hall
Tuesday 21st	6.00 pm	Hatha Yoga Class	Village Hall
		Beacon deadline for February edition	
Wednesday 22nd	9.00 am	Hatha Yoga Class	Village Hall
	10.30 am	Chair Yoga	
Friday 24th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
	6.00 pm	Dartmouth YFC Quiz Night	Village Hall
Saturday 25th	8.00 pm	Burns Night	Village Hall
Sunday 26th	3.00 pm	BADS panto rehearsal	Village Hall
Tuesday 28th	5.00 pm	BADS tech. rehearsal	Village Hall
	6.00 pm	Hatha Yoga Class	Village Hall
Wednesday 29th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Newton Abbot via Totnes	Bus shelter
	9.00 am	Hatha Yoga Class	Village Hall
	10.30 am	Chair Yoga	
	5.00 pm	BADS tech. rehearsal	Village Hall
Thursday 30th	5.00 pm	BADS pantomime dress rehearsal	Village Hall
Friday 31st	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
	7.00 pm	BADS pantomime <i>Wood Side Story</i>	Village Hall

February 2025

Saturday 1st	7.00 pm	BADS pantomime <i>Wood Side Story</i>	Village Hall
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