



# Blackawton Beacon

## July 2024

published jointly by the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council

### Blackawton Church Fête

Figtree, Vicarage Road

thank you, Jan and Andrea Scott  
(or in the church if wet)

**Saturday 13th July**  
**at 2.30 pm**

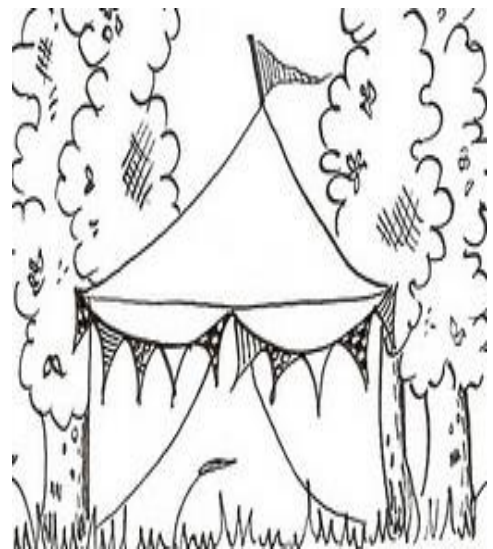
There will be games for all ages, a raffle and stalls: cakes, plants, bric-a-brac, books. Contributions for the raffle and stalls will be gratefully received on the morning of the fete.

**Please come and bring your family and friends**  
enquiries: Kate Janman **01803 712362**

**Do you have any spare plants, perennials you have divided or seedlings you have grown?**

Please bring them along on Saturday morning or telephone Jane Gimpel if you need them collected. Plants of all shapes, sizes, colours and varieties will be gratefully received.

Many thanks. Jane Gimpel **01803 712850**



### KARAOKE NIGHT at THE GEORGE INN

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July

From 7:30pm

Come and join us for a fun night!



# St Michael's Church

## Services for July

| <i>Date</i>                 | <i>Time</i> | <i>Service</i>                |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Tuesday 2nd                 | 2.00 pm     | Funeral of Elaine Tucker      |
| Sunday 7th                  | 9.30 am     | Holy Communion (by extension) |
| Sunday 14th<br>(Sea Sunday) | 9.30 am     | Morning Worship               |
| Sunday 21st                 | 11.00 am    | Holy Communion                |
| Sunday 28th                 | 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**.

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.**

## Reader’s corner

from **Peter Barker**

A leader, it has been said, is a person with a magnet in his heart and a compass in her head. A moral compass and magnetizing charisma: do our would-be leaders know the route on which we should be going and have they the ability to take us all as a nation along with them on a probably difficult road? High expectations! Yet our leaders, like us, are only human. We might do well to reflect on the stories of two leaders in the Old Testament.

The Israelites were warned: ‘A king will conscript your children as soldiers and lay a heavy burden of taxation on every aspect of your lives until you end up crying out in desperation.’ But they still wanted a ‘king’, so as to be ‘like everyone else.’ So they got Saul. Imposing yet humble (initially!), he dealt with the first crisis exercising quick, decisive and firm leadership. He’d proved a real winner! Record poll approval ratings! He was generous to those Israelites who hadn’t initially supported him. He went from strength to strength, until impatience and his fear of failure got the better of him. He disobeyed God. He displayed arrogance. Then weakness: allowing his troops free rein. Snouts in the trough? Obviously – even without a focus group. Excuses didn’t ring true. Saul became moody and subject to fits of madness. His poll ratings were eclipsed after he allowed a mere lad to rescue him from military humiliation by a well-known Philistine. Consumed with jealousy, Saul wrecked his family and divided the nation. He resorted to the occult, broke his own laws, and finally met with defeat, disaster and death. Who said leaders don’t need constantly praying for?

Let’s not underestimate the temptations leaders face. David, Saul’s successor, also sinned, appallingly: adultery and murder. He, and the country, suffered as a result. But God never abandoned ‘his servant’ David because in his heart David always loved and trusted God, and wanted to serve his country; when he sinned he was truly penitent and God’s forgiveness is remarkable. God looks not on the outward appearance but on the heart. That’s where David differed from Saul. Character then is really important, but so to is policy. The Bible doesn’t offer specific answers to detailed policy questions, but it does state clear principles. The prophet Micah for instance: “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” Challenging! And the words are addressed, not just to our leaders, but to all of us.

Wishing you all God’s blessing.

## 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   |

## Blackawton WI

from **Sandra Tope**

Our June meeting was held again in Sportsman's Arms, with our speaker Charlotte Bacon from SWW. We were taken through the process of gathering the water, cleaning it and sending it out to us, the customers. We were amazed at what they find in the sewers, ranging from children's toys, sheets, and even in one large sewer, a garden shed!! The situation in Brixham was mentioned, obviously, but there appears to be no answer to the problem, and there are lots of lessons to be learnt for the future. Of the £900m they have coming in annually, it was explained only 8% is shared out among the shareholders, contrary to what the press say, but a massive 34% goes into repairing a very old infrastructure. It was a fascinating morning, with lots learnt, and maybe a few misconceptions cleared up.

The competition was for a decorated glass, which was won by Marion Wreyford with a beautiful glass decorated with bees and flowers. The Bloom of the Month was won by myself with a pink Rhododendron.

As summer approaches we are busy organizing a trip to the Tiverton Canal for a horse drawn trip along the canal. Hope fully the weather will be kind to us, and we hope to make use of the West Dart Bus, as the school will be on holidays. It is always nice to make use of local amenities when we can.

Our July meeting will once again be at the Sportsman's Arms on **July 17** at 10.30 am. The speaker will be David Ramsden MBE from the Barn Owl Trust. The competition this month is 'A Bird Ornament' and as usual there is the Bloom of the Month.

The WI is a unique organization, organized by women for women. So for less than £1 a week, why not join our growing club and make some new friends. Open to women of all ages, but for more information call Sue on **01803 712145** or Sandra on **01803 712622**.

## Wormcharming

from **Chris Oughton**

The Blackawton International Festival of Wormcharming in May was another fantastic day, supported by the community - many thanks to all the teams that helped us put it together. After a pretty dreadful wet start to the day a bold set of 84 teams registered and were rewarded with a great sunny afternoon of fun. With the auction in the evening under the guidance of Ash facing a tough crowd, we are happy to announce that we raised **£3000 for charity**, which we've broken down as follows:

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Village Hall fund     | £1000 |
| Fireworks Team        | £600  |
| Devon Air Ambulance   | £500  |
| Vic's Fund            | £500  |
| Pickles in a Prickle  | £200  |
| Dartmouth Food Bank   | £100  |
| Kingsbridge Food Bank | £100  |

**All hail the Great Worm!**

## Yoga classes

from **Hannah Roberts**

Hannah's Hatha weekly yoga classes are still at

**Blackawton church (in the narthex)**

|                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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**.

## Calling all tennis players!

From **Tony Stevens**

We have a fantastic tennis court in the village, next to the Village Hall. Why not sign up to come and use it? The annual membership fee is £40 per family, with all proceeds going to the upkeep of the court and the village Playpark. For this you get access to our online booking system and the code for the padlock to gain entry to the court, so no disappointment of finding the court being used when you go down to use it!

If you would like to play, please email Tony Stevens at [ajstevens@ymail.com](mailto:ajstevens@ymail.com). It is a wonderful village facility, so please don't hesitate if you are interested.

## For rent

Storage space in old farm building, approx 25 square meters. **£275 pcm.**

Two parking spaces, generously sized. **£85 pcm each (negotiable).**

All at Greenslade Road, Blackawton.

Tel **01803 712296** (mornings) or email [jery@dircon.co.uk](mailto:jery@dircon.co.uk).

## River Gara water vole reintroduction project

from Sue Hadow

Having completed Phase 1 of the project with two release events at 4 different sites along the River Gara, The Habitat Group have embarked on the second, final phase of the project. This will result in another 400 water voles being released into the Start valley, northwest of Slapton Ley. This second phase is being largely funded by FIPL (Farming in Protected Landscapes) for which we are very grateful.

We are hoping to raise the remaining funds needed to complete the project with the Open Studios event advertised below. This gives everyone a unique opportunity to visit two acclaimed local artists in their studios, both of whom are donating much of their profits from this event to the reintroduction project.

To find out more about the project and artists please follow these links.

[www.thehabitatgroup.uk/river-gara-water-vole-reintroduction-project](http://www.thehabitatgroup.uk/river-gara-water-vole-reintroduction-project)

[www.francesgynn.co.uk](http://www.francesgynn.co.uk)

[www.sarahgillespie.co.uk](http://www.sarahgillespie.co.uk)

**Save the Date!** 10th & 11th August 2024

**Sarah Gillespie      Frances Gynn**

Open Studio Weekend, East Allington and Blackawton    10th & 11th August 2024, 11.00 am - 5.00 pm

**Opened by Derek Gow - farmer and author**

with Public Erasure - Water Vole by Frances Gynn Sat 11.30 am

Printing Demonstration - Water Vole by Sarah Gillespie Sat 2.00 pm

***Raising funds for Phase 2 River Gara Water Vole Reintroduction project***

## Sustainable Blackawton

from Ruth Coe

### Community composting project

Still awaiting planning consent, we have yet to decide on the management model for receiving garden "waste" and allowing collection of finished compost. This is to be discussed in the next Sustainable Blackawton meeting in September. There are several options, maybe a membership scheme, maybe a donation for delivering "waste" and collecting finished compost, if you have ideas on this matter, please do contact me [ruth@blackawtoncommunity.com](mailto:ruth@blackawtoncommunity.com) or come to the September meeting. Some volunteers have offered their services, and the more folk we have the fewer times annually anyone will be required! This is likely to be a fun, useful and sociable group that delivers soil improvement, and potentially so much more!

### Water quality of our rivers

South Devon River Champions, with support from many other organisations, have applied for grant funding to the Water Restoration Fund, hoping to improve our local waterways to status "Excellent" rather than "Poor" (currently achieved!). We all wish them a successful outcome on 24th July.

### Community energy

Attendance at the community energy forum hosted by National Grid and REGEN in Exeter in June confirmed that Sustainable Blackawton are right to consider all potential forms of community energy. There are places in the village where more solar is appropriate and this could be community funded and owned with benefits to local residents.

Has anyone thought, or talked, about community-owned wind power in Blackawton? Your thoughts and views about on-shore wind are sought, please do give this topic your consideration. There are many benefits available for the whole community where power and income is generated, and owned, locally.

Anyone that has applied for grants will know that applications can be lengthy, extremely complex and are often denied after much time and effort has gone into the submission. Funding available within the community from projects such as renewable electricity generation are usually much simpler to access.

## Tree warden

from **Bob Harvey**

### Warning - Tree Vandals!

Every five years or so a gang of tree vandals passes through this area during May and June. They use a two-pronged implement to remove the bark from broadleaf trees up to twenty years old in strips about 20 x 150 mm, leaving these on the ground. Sometimes the damage is patchy, but often it systematically strips all bark from the tree trunk - which, of course, kills it. In my 12-acre plantation, which I have cared for since 2011 so they are ten to twenty feet high, I have on each occasion had about 100 trees destroyed. You are welcome to come to Clyston to see it.

So when you plant those trees to help counteract climate change, and care for them for twenty years, all your efforts are wasted. So why bother? The vandals, which also transmit ticks infected with Lyme disease (see NHS), and destroy birds' nests, can be known as CLGS (Cuddly Little Grey Squirrels).

## A year in a Blackawton allotment

from **Jill Kelly**

At the Devon County Show, we managed to get some raw sheep's wool in return for a modest charity donation, in fact three bags full. However, it was not for the master, dame and little boy, but to protect my plants from slugs. The results have been variable. Plants have still been eaten, but maybe the result is better than no protection. I am now also using ash which so far, if only by coincidence, has been effective.



April was taken up with preparing my plantlets for being deserted for a week while we went on holiday. This meant lots of potting up and hardening off so that all the plants were either in the mini greenhouse/cold frames or outside. It was a great relief to come back from holiday at the start of May to find our kind village friends had done a fantastic job watering for us and all the plants were still alive.

Of the various seeds which I planted straight onto the allotment in April, only the mangetout came up. In particular, the beans failed. May sowings have been much more promising with radish and spring onions germinating. However, I only have two bean plants from two rows. I have tried sowing again.

The onset of the warm sunny weather revealed which seedlings were simply doing badly. Maybe they got left in small pots too long, or maybe it was the peat free compost. The Winter purslane is pretty hopeless. Mizuno and rocket do not seem to respond to being sown in trays - they run to seed. Beetroot has had really poor germination. Parsley keeps getting eaten and is growing slowly. The celery put on little growth but improved after potting up into better compost enriched with horse manure and is now looking promising in the allotment ground. Also planted out are onions, leeks, lettuce, chicory, spinach beet and courgettes grown from seed. They are all still alive.

The beetroot I sowed last Autumn and planted in the ground in March has bolted. On the positive side, the Winter onions look strong and healthy. However, the garlic which was doing well appears to have developed rust which is going round the allotments.

The best news is that we are now cropping the golden mangetout which I started as seeds in February, and the sugar snap peas are coming up. I have a glut of tomato plants and most of them are being kept under glass. It is extraordinary what different rates of growth different varieties have. Furthest on are the bush forms where the odd fruit is forming. I have planted three on the allotment but have been warned they are likely to succumb to potato blight there. They are not looking good.

The allotment is now full, so until the Winter onions come out, no new crops can go in.

## West Dart 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**.

### 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 July:

|                |                                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 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 between 12.45 and 1.00 pm.

# Village Hall

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## Horticultural Show

The Horticultural Show will be held in the Village Hall on **Saturday 14th September** at 2.30 pm. The schedule is attached to this Beacon - please have a look and see what you could enter.

Please note, this year there are no fees for exhibitors, and no prize money for adults. Please come to the show with your comments about this – we'd like to hear your thoughts.

Enjoy the summer - knitting, gardening, making jam, taking photographs, painting, sewing, making a model from junk (if you are young enough) – and we will all look forward to seeing the results at the show.

## Roof Fund

from **Sarah Evans**

On behalf of Blackawton Village Community Hall we are writing to seek your support. We understand that finances are difficult for everyone at the moment, but we are seeking any monetary donation you are able to provide. Your contribution will directly impact our ability as a community to complete works on our Village Hall. Your support would be invaluable and greatly appreciated.

We have been fortunate in gaining monies from the Section 106 funding through the French Furze development which has funded most of the development alongside, luckily, the free labour that has been given generously in order for works to take place. Moving forward, as you will realise, funding has a limit, and this is why we are having to write to everyone in the parish to ask for help.

On a brighter note, things are positive! We are on the final straight! The roof is on, and electrics and plumbing are taking place. However, when the works were first undertaken the gable ends of the roof were unfit for purpose and had to be replaced alongside flooring due to water damage. This was an unexpected extra cost. We have already begun to undertake repairs to modernise and make it a better venue for the community for the longer term.

To express our gratitude for your generosity we are planning to mention all the names of people who have helped in this renovation in any shape or form on a wall mural at the side of the hall as a way of a thank you. No monies donated will be listed, and all contributions will be private.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and support. If you would like to donate, our BACS details are below. If you would prefer to contribute using cash, we have also placed a safe box in the Village Shop – please ensure you also write a note with your name on and place in the cash box – this does not have to mention the monies given.

Hopefully we can call pull together to ensure the future of our Village Hall in order to support our community for years to come.

With many thanks, **Blackawton Village Hall.**

For donations of £5 and upwards via BACS please make payment to:

Account name: Blackawton Village Hall Club

Sort Code: 30-96-26

Account: 59614460

## Progress report

from **Ruth Coe**

For several months now a crew of dedicated volunteers have worked hard on our village hall to resolve the roof problems, and the committee are grateful to all these volunteers. There were also many local residents that originally funded and built the hall. Sadly, many of these people are no longer with us, but we acknowledge that without their efforts and generosity we would not have our splendid village hall. Thank you all of you, you know who you are!

The new roof structure is now finished, and mostly tiled. Though no income has been received since the panels, with the roof, were removed many months ago, we now have a retiled new roof, with old panels about to be refitted to generate power, and income, from the old feed-in-tariff. We also have additional new panels, though NOT eligible for feed-in-tariff payments, these are more efficient and will provide revenue from export payments once we have arranged an export tariff with an energy supplier. This investment will future-proof the economic viability of the hall when feed-in-tariff payments end in 2035. The old kitchen, huge by any standards, has been subdivided into new kitchen with separate, lockable, secure bar area and utility room. The kitchen has been redesigned and refitting is soon to be underway. This enables functions to be managed without the 2-day effort to set-up and clear away, a huge improvement. A stairway to storage, and a small projector room, above the kitchen has also been installed, eventually to run films in the hall – anyone with experience and knowhow on “film clubs” will be very welcome to help in setting one up in Blackawton!

Much by way of cleaning and redecorating remains to do, outside space and cloakrooms need to be upgraded when funds allow. The hall has a deadline for reopening for the Horticultural Show on 2nd Saturday of September 2024, so any help available to help achieve this will be much appreciated.

## Bookings

from **Adrian Kyte**

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.

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# Blackawton Primary School

from **Lorna Churchill**

Joyous June!! There has been so much going on at Blackawton School this Summer term, where to start? Swimming lessons for all children at the school have been in full swing. We are super lucky to have this amazing facility at the school and thanks to FOBS support a full set of new floats and learning support aids are available to all!

We were incredibly lucky with the weather for the School Summer Fete, thank you to everyone who attended. Year 6 students created a great selection of games including the very popular *Sponge the teachers* and football shootout. Thanks to the support of Dartmouth Ice Cream Company a **very** popular ice cream stand! The Deputy Mayor of Totnes attended to support the Wildlife Champions in officially opening the Wildlife Pond, and burgers and hotdogs were served thanks to Jolly Farm and Olivers Butchers, as well as The Cellar Door.

Lots of thanks were given at the fete to all who support the school, but more recognition should really be given to Emma (and Ed) Parr-Ferris who have worked tirelessly for the school over the last 10 years and will be sadly leaving us this year. Also, our much-loved School Secretary Helen Perry who has supported, loved and worked with the school for (eek) 25 years will be retiring at the end of this term. Mrs Perry has been such an integral part of the school and will be much missed by all of us. We wish you a wonderful retirement and **so** many thanks, words cannot cover it.

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# 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

**Volunteer news:** since last month we have had two new regular volunteers join the team, and others signing up to help with unpacking orders and doing local supplier runs. We've also had offers to cover Sundays from existing volunteers and their partners. Thank you! We very much appreciate all of the support we receive from volunteers and customers.



**Supporting your community Post Office:** did you realise that – for those resisting the cashless society! – you can get cash out from the PO? Although we're only a small set-up (we are effectively an offshoot of the Strete post office) we do offer most day-to-day services. And every little helps!



**Wine of the Month**  
**Pictor Sauvignon Blanc, Central Valley, Chile (12% ABV)**  
£7.50/bottle

A light style of Sauvignon with a pale, bright yellow colour. Fresh and crisp, with a blend of citrus notes, lime and grapefruit, mixed with floral touches. A clean, crisp finish which leaves you wanting more! Excellent as a summer aperitif, or pair with pasta, white meats, grilled fish, salads or seafood dishes.

We have lots of **new stock lines**, including children's toys, buckets & spades, a new range of greetings cards and gift wrap from Eco Card Company. We now have various biodegradable household items including bamboo clothes pegs and dish-cloths.

For lunch in the sunshine (we remain optimistic!), there's a new range of fresh sandwiches and other picnic items. And for your summer barbecues pick up a bag of local, sustainably-produced spindlewood charcoal. Chemical-free and made locally from environmentally-managed woodlands in the South Hams (continuous cover forestry, using horses rather than soil-compacting machinery to extract just the smaller trees), this is great for our habitats and an excellent alternative to imported charcoal.

**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.



# Parish Council

## The Thoughts of Chairman Rake

from Simon Rake

### X marks the spot

It has become something of the norm for documents nowadays to start with an 'Executive Summary'. Executives, as we all know, are very important and busy people, doing very important things very busily. So to save them time in their busy and important lives the key points of the document are summarised so that they may avoid the time-consuming bother of looking at the detail (which after all is a matter for less important but probably no less busy people).

Well, I know that you are probably busy, and I'm sure that you are very important, so here goes.

Executive Summary:

Please vote on 4 July (or at a time of your convenience if you have a postal vote).

Please don't forget that you will need approved photo ID. List of approved ID here:

[www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id)

Erm, that's it!

For those of you with a bit more time on your hands (or looking for a break from your busy and important lives), here's why I think voting matters so much. Voting honours the past, engages with the present and shapes the future.



Honouring the past: as we mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day, and VE Day next year, or think back to the Suffragette campaigns of the early years of the last century, the struggle and sacrifice required to establish and protect our democracy come into sharp focus. Democracy has many strengths, but as many vulnerabilities as there are voters. When I talk to people ‘on the doorstep’ (as the politicians like to say) I am frequently alarmed by a prevailing apathy. It would be an unimaginable tragedy if this disengagement overcame our shared debt to those who have made sacrifices in the past.

Engaging with the present: voting is an act of affirmation of one’s membership of civil society. There is a difference between taking the time to go to the polling station, even if you then spoil your ballot or cast an empty vote, and not voting at all. It is also a mark of solidarity with those around the world who do not have the ability to vote in free and fair elections. There is a suggestion that people will spend more time researching the purchase of a car or a TV than they will considering who to vote for. And there is an argument that this is rational behaviour – after all, you will drive or watch your new purchase on a daily basis, whilst the impacts of your vote may not be as immediately obvious. Whilst this may (or may not) be rational for any given individual, it can lead to disastrous collective outcomes. The only way out of this vicious circle is for those same individuals to engage with the democratic process... and vote.

Shaping the future: whatever the apathetic, disenchanted or disengaged may say, politicians are not all the same, and will not all do the same things. Elections therefore represent a chance to shape our future. I will happily grant that there could be more opportunities for people to have an opportunity for input between elections – citizens’ assemblies spring to mind – but the system is as it is for the time being at least.

Winston Churchill is widely quoted as saying “democracy is the worst form of Government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time”. There is perhaps an implication in those words that there is still room for improvement, but for the time being this is all we have.

**So please vote on 4 July.**

## **Blackawton Parish Council meeting**

from **Annette Thom**, Parish Clerk

Notes of the Meeting of Blackawton Parish Council held on Tuesday 4th June 2024 at 7.30 pm in St Michael’s Church, Blackawton. Complete minutes can be read at **[www.blackawtoncommunity.com](http://www.blackawtoncommunity.com)** or the parish noticeboard.

### **Open Forum**

There were no questions from Parishioners.

### **Councillors Forum**

Avon River Champions’ Request for support for its Water Restoration Fund Bid.

The request to submit letters of support by 7 June 2024 was received after the Agenda was posted, therefore BPC cannot respond with specific support for the bid. The bid refers to the South West Water sewage treatment works in Blackawton. BPC has an established position regarding upgrading the sewage treatment capacity. It was agreed that the Clerk will respond accordingly. Parish Cllrs may choose to write as individual Cllrs.

Legal Responsibility for the Maintenance of the Closed St Michael’s Churchyard.

A meeting of representatives from BPC and the Parochial Church Council was provisionally scheduled for 10 June at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Parish & South Hams District Cllr Rake (Chair), Parish Cllrs Oughton (Vice-Chair), Coe, Haddow, Mardon, and Thomas were present, as was A Thom (Clerk). There were no members of the public present. Absent: Cllr Luckens.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Luckens and Devon County Councillor Brazil.

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

SHDC Cllr Rake reported that SHDC has carried out a peer review process. The reviewing team was made-up of Officers and Councillors from comparable Councils, and matched for roles and political balance. It was very positive. The assessment Report is available in the public domain. The Annual Meeting took place recently and a new Chair was elected.

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

DCC Cllr Brazil sent apologies for the meeting and a short report. He noted that it is the pre-election period so he is limited in what he can report.

### **2023/24 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)**

2023/24 Internal Audit Report. The Report was received and noted. The Report concludes that the internal control objectives are being met. Five actions are recommended. Two are addressed in this meeting: to update Standing Order 17 to reflect the contract limits contained in the revised Financial Regulations, and

to minute the Public Notice when approving Sections 1 & 2 of the AGAR and include the dates of the Public Notice in the Minutes. The recommended review of Cemetery Fees will be a project as soon as possible, along with a review of the double fees for former residents. To consider adding replacement values of equipment to the asset register to help to forward plan for replacement is under consideration. The Clerk considers that replacement values of equipment in the asset register should correspond with insurance values, as commented by the internal auditor. However items valued at less than £1,000 are not insured. The Clerk recommended that the current system of recording asset disposals by financial year, and not on the asset register itself as suggested by the Auditor, be continued.

BPC Standing Orders. It was resolved to confirm revision of BPC Standing Order 17 to reflect the contract limits (£30,000) in the revised BPC Financial Regulations.

Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2023/24 Part 2. It was resolved that BPC meets the criteria for 23/24 and wishes to be an exempt authority, not subject to a limited assurance review, for 23/24.

To sign the Certificate of Exemption. The Chair and the Clerk signed the Certificate.

23/24 Audit Annual Governance Statement. It was resolved to approve the Statement.

Signature of the Audit Annual Governance Statement. The Chair and the Clerk signed the Statement.

23/24 Audit Accounting Statements. The Accounting Statements were considered.

To resolve to approve the Statements. It was resolved to approve the Statements.

Signature of the Accounting Statements by the Chair of the Meeting. The Chair signed the Statements.

Publication of Annual Governance & Accountability Return (Exempt Authority) & Publication of Notice of Public Rights. It was noted that the Return and the Public Rights Notice will be published, with inspection dates 17 June to 26 July 2024.

## **Finance**

Update on Current Financial Position. The Financial Reports showed a total balance of £60,331.01 and unearmarked General Fund of £17,562.48. The bank balances reconciled with the cashbook.

### **Payments & Receipts**

Clerk's May Expenses Reimbursement                      £32.06

The Clerk noted that the invoices for the Maintenance Contractor advertisement (£134.40) and the hire of St Michael's Church's Narthex for April, May, and June 2024 Parish Council meetings (£60.00) were received after the Agenda was posted and will be authorised by the Clerk and Chair, and be paid concurrently with the above payment.

## **Correspondence**

- 8/5/24 SHDC, Free decarbonisation support for South Hams businesses
- 13/5/24, Resident, Thanks for the grant to purchase a replacement community flag
- 14/5/24, Community Matters, Enquiry about Community space & business units at French Furze The Clerk was asked to circulate this and the response to all BPC Cllrs.
- 16/5/24 The Bioregional Learning Centre, Invitation to Cllrs: Adaptation and Resilience Learning Journey, first week in June – partial attendance is fine
- 17/5/24, Citizens Advice South Hams, Thank you for the grant from BPC
- 18/5/24, Request for support for campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries
- 22/5/24, Blackawton Beacon, Thank you for the grant to support production of the Beacon
- 22/5/24 SHDC, New Free Business Support Programme for Construction and Maintenance Professionals
- 23/5/24, DCC, Event - Pasture to Plate - South Devon Food Hub inaugural event for farmers and producers. Longcombe Valley, TQ9 6PW, Tuesday, 09 July 2024, 12:00 – 16:30
- May 24, Lloyds Bank, interest rate reducing 27/7 & BPC not covered by FSCS. Lloyds has confirmed verbally that BPC is covered by FSCS with letter to follow.

## **Extraordinary Meeting Monday 17 June 2024 at 600 pm St. Michael's Church**

**Present:** Cllrs Coe, Mardon, and Thomas were present, as were A Thom (Clerk) and one member of the public. **Absent:** Cllrs Rake, Oughton, Haddow, and Luckens.

### **Election of a Meeting Chair**

It was resolved to elect Cllr Thomas to Chair the Meeting.

### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

It was resolved to suspend BPC Standing Order 3 b to permit the inclusion of a Sunday in the three clear days notice for this meeting. This allows the revised Agenda which includes the planning applications.

## Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Rake and Oughton.

## Request for a former resident with a very strong local Blackawton connection to be buried in the Blackawton Cemetery

It was resolved that the person is eligible to be buried in the Blackawton Cemetery.

## Planning Applications

### Review of Current Applications

1714/24/FUL & 1715/24/LBC Larcombe Farm, East Allington, TQ9 7QB. Householder & Listed Building Consent for conversion of first floor of existing traditional stone Linhay into single-storey two-bed holiday accommodation, with associated external works & landscaping, alterations & improvements to existing ground floor storage rooms. **Support.** BPC considers this a sensitive conversion of an existing building. BPC supports the use of the building to help a local business to diversify or to provide local housing.

0278/24/ARM Land at SX 855 508 Violet Drive Dartmouth. READVERTISEMENT (Amended red line, elevational changes to building, revised boundary treatment details, additional landscaping details, updated tree protection plan, additional plans of bin store, cycle store and access ramp, directional highway signage within the site, revised lighting details with replacement of some lighting columns with bollards, and further transport note to address comments on highway access arrangements) Application for approval of reserved matters (layout, appearance, scale and landscaping) following outline approval 0479/21/VAR for Erection of a 3-storey, 105-bedroom hotel with ancillary restaurant and all associated works. **Support.** BPC supports contributions to a thriving local economy. Character of the Landscape – BPC would prefer an adaptation of the architectural design to create a building and site more in keeping with the historic and natural beauty of Dartmouth. The site is in a prominent location at the entrance to the town. The building will have an impact on the character of the landscape and the town.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 16th July 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<br>07970 971140   | julian.brazil@devon.gov.uk         |
| Devon County Council            | 0845 155 1015<br>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](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/your-area/teams/Dartmouth/Contact)

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

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:beacon@blackawtoncommunity.com). Contributions on paper can be posted to, or dropped off at, 1 The Cross, Park Lane, Blackawton, TQ9 7BD. The deadline for the August edition is **Monday 22nd July**.

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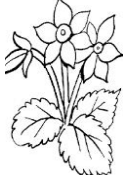
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Email me at [info@blackawtonblooms.co.uk](mailto:info@blackawtonblooms.co.uk) or call/message **07951 296494**.

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



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## Parish Diary

### July 2024

|                |          |  |                        |
|----------------|----------|--|------------------------|
| Tuesday 2nd    | 6.00 pm  | Hatha Yoga class                         | Church                 |
| Wednesday 3rd  | 9.30 am  | West Dart Bus to The Willows via Totnes  | Bus shelter            |
|                | 9.00 am  | Hatha Yoga class                         | Church                 |
|                | 10.30 am | Chair Yoga/gentle exercise               |                        |
| Friday 5th     | 9.30 am  | West Dart Bus to Dartmouth               | Bus shelter            |
|                | 7.30 pm  | Karaoke Night                            | The George Inn         |
| Tuesday 9th    | 6.00 pm  | Hatha Yoga class                         | Church                 |
| Wednesday 10th | 9.00 am  | Hatha Yoga class                         | Church                 |
|                | 10.30 am | Chair Yoga/gentle exercise               |                        |
| Friday 12th    | 9.30 am  | West Dart Bus to Dartmouth               | Bus shelter            |
| Tuesday 16th   | 6.00 pm  | Hatha Yoga class                         | Church                 |
|                | 7.30 pm  | Parish Council meeting                   | Church                 |
| Saturday 13th  | 2.30 pm  | Church Fête                              | Figtree, Vicarage Road |
| Wednesday 17th | 9.00 am  | Hatha Yoga class                         | Church                 |
|                | 10.30 am | Chair Yoga/gentle exercise               |                        |
|                | 10.30 am | Blackawton WI meeting                    | Sportsman's Arms       |
| Friday 19th    | 9.30 am  | West Dart Bus to Dartmouth               | Bus shelter            |
| Monday 22nd    |          | Beacon deadline for August edition       |                        |
| Tuesday 23rd   | 6.00 pm  | Hatha Yoga class                         | Church                 |
| Wednesday 24th | 9.00 am  | Hatha Yoga class                         | Church                 |
|                | 10.30 am | Chair Yoga/gentle exercise               |                        |
| Friday 26th    | 9.30 am  | West Dart Bus to Dartmouth               | Bus shelter            |
| Tuesday 30th   | 6.00 pm  | Hatha Yoga class                         | Church                 |
| Wednesday 31st | 9.30 am  | West Dart Bus to Newton Abbot via Totnes | Bus shelter            |
|                | 9.00 am  | Hatha Yoga class                         | Church                 |
|                | 10.30 am | Chair Yoga/gentle exercise               |                        |



Don't forget to vote on 4th July

