



# Blackawton Beacon

## July 2026

published jointly by the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council

## Blackawton Church Fête

Figtree, Vicarage Road

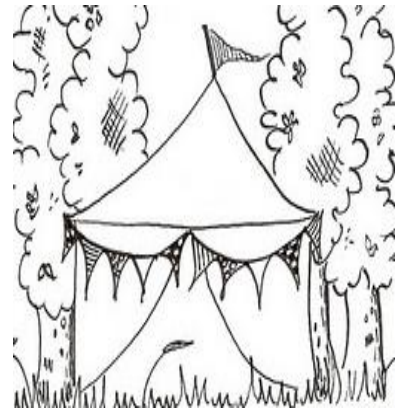
thank you, Jan and Andrea Scott

**Saturday 11th July**  
**at 2.30 pm**

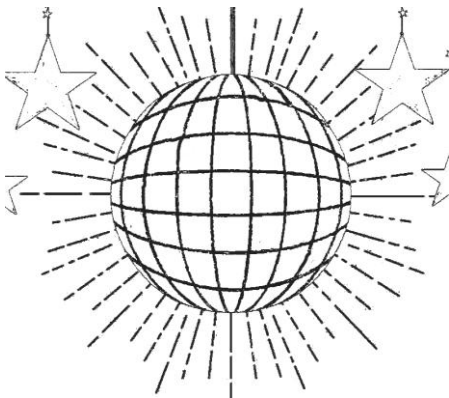
There will be games for all ages, a raffle and stalls: cakes, plants, bric-a-brac, books. Contributions for the raffle and stalls will be gratefully received on the morning of the fete.

**Please come and bring your family and friends**

enquiries: Kate Janman **01803 712362**



***The Hamiltons present:***



## Disco Lounge

***In support of Save Our Pub***

**Saturday 18th July 7.00 - 11.00 pm**

**£5 Adult £2 Children - entry cash only**

**Blackawton Village Hall - Bar open**

**Children must be accompanied by an adult**

## VOX Theatre: The Dream

**Friday 24th July at 7.00 pm**

**Blackawton Village Hall**

The company who recently performed *Pride and Prejudice* now bring us a world of love, beauty, creativity and transformation with a bold new adaptation of **Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream***.

Set beneath a canopy of music, moonlight and magic, *The Dream* explores what happens when we truly see one another, and ourselves. It's a celebration of imagination, connection, and the unexpected beauty that can emerge from chaos.

It promises to be a joyous, music-filled theatrical adventure, blending the magic of Shakespeare's play with the passion, chaos and rivalries of a world-famous rock band at the height of its fame.

***Packed with live music, laughter and heart, it's a celebration of love, friendship, creativity and the beautiful madness of making art together.***

# St Michael's Church

## Services for July

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>
Sunday 5th	9.30 am	Holy Communion (by extension)
Sunday 12th	9.30 am	Breakfast Church
Sunday 19th	11.00 am	Holy Communion & Baptism
Sunday 26th	9.30 am	Morning Worship

The services above are correct at time of going to press. Please see weekly pew sheet, gate notices or “A Church Near You” website for the latest information. We will also email any changes or additions to our mailing list – if you’re not on our mailing list and would like to be, please send an email saying “subscribe” with “Blackawton Church News” as the subject to **chris.janman@gmail.com**.

There is a Mini Food Bank in the Church porch, open 24 hours a day, every day. **Please give what you can and take what you need.**

## 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

### Blackawton WI

from **Sandra Tope**

Summer would appear to be here at long last! Long may it continue... At our June meeting, our speaker was from the Fire Service and gave an enlightening talk on fire safety around the home. She had pictures of some fires and how they started and emphasised the need for smoke alarms. After a cup of coffee, she then judged our competitions, which were won by Francis Harvey with a beautiful pink rose and Sarah Green, with her stunning wooden model of a car. Well done to them both.

Our next meeting will be held on July 15th at 10.30 am in the Village Hall as usual. Our speaker will be giving us a stained glass demonstration. As well as the usual bloom of the month, the competition is for a glass paperweight.

New members always welcome, if you would like more information please call Sue on **01804 812145**, or Sandra on **01803 712622**.

### Wormcharming

from **the Wormcharming Committee**

Another brilliant year of the International Festival of Wormcharming!

Thank you so much to everyone who came along to this year's International Festival of Wormcharming and made it another huge success!

We had a bumper year, with 123 teams, and we raised a whopping £5,000! Well done everyone!

The funds will be distributed amongst the following brilliant organisations: Devon Air Ambulance, Blackawton bell ringers, the Blackawton Playing Fields Committee, the Save Our Pub fund, Sustainable Blackawton, the Blackawton Fireworks Committee, Dartmouth Community Chest, local food banks, and Prickles in a Pickle.

We really are in need of more volunteers to enable this excellent event to continue, so if you'd like to get involved please get in touch by emailing **chris.oughton@yahoo.co.uk**.

**All hail the great worm!**

## Save Our Pub update!

from the Save Our Pub campaign team

A lot has been happening behind the scenes as we work towards securing the future of our wonderful pub! With support from Plunkett UK we are taking steps towards setting up a Community Benefit Society (CBS), which will provide the legal framework for potential community ownership and operation of the pub.

We've launched a website ([www.saveourpubblackawton.co.uk](http://www.saveourpubblackawton.co.uk)), attended village events to answer questions and recruit volunteers, and the Totnes Times has featured an article about our campaign.

Barchester is carrying out repairs to bring the pub back to a safe, operational condition. While there is not yet a confirmed completion date, discussions remain ongoing to determine the best route forward. Although we're not yet ready to fundraise for the purchase of the pub itself, we're kicking off fundraising to cover essential start-up costs, including:

- Obtaining a valuation of the pub.
- Setting up the CBS.
- Securing professional advice.
- Carrying out other key preparatory work.

Fundraising successes so far:

- £500 donated from the Wormcharming Committee.
- A grant of £580 from the Parish Council.

By popular demand, Save Our Pub T-shirts will soon be available in the village shop, with all proceeds going towards the campaign. Save these dates for upcoming fundraising events, at the Village Hall:

- Saturday 18 July, 7–11 pm. The Hamiltons present **Disco Lounge** in support of the Save Our Pub campaign. £5 adults, £2 children - entry fee cash only. The bar will be open. All children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Friday 21 August – Pig Racing Night. More details to follow.
- Sunday 30 August – Lazy Sunday in the park. More details to follow.
- Saturday 17 October – Autumn Ball featuring a live band. More details to follow.

Thank you again to everyone who has supported the campaign so far! Our contact details and ongoing updates are available on our website [www.saveourpubblackawton.co.uk](http://www.saveourpubblackawton.co.uk).

## Sustainable Blackawton

from Ruth Coe

The next Sustainable Blackawton meeting is on **Tuesday 7th July** at 7.00 pm at Figtree, Vicarage Road. New members very welcome. Contact [douglasnoble@icloud.com](mailto:douglasnoble@icloud.com) if you want to find out more.

### Study on potential for community owned local wind power

Members of Sustainable Blackawton want a Devon where renewable energy is locally owned, community-led and delivers lasting social, economic and environmental benefit locally, while mitigating the climate change crisis. Our mission is to enable and scale locally owned renewable energy through strategic partnerships that develop and operate projects while retaining ownership, value, and decision-making within this community, benefiting our local economy and contributing to a thriving, prosperous community where every resident, especially young folk, has improved opportunities.

Our Village Hall already has significant solar power generated by roof top solar panels. Since 2010 this has assisted in funding improvements. This is significant for the community, but so much more is possible. Solar pv panels on business units, on the school, on the church could contribute so much more! New analysis from UK think tank, Ember, found that wind and solar together accounted for 22% of global electricity generation during April, ahead of gas at 20%. This reflects steady growth in renewable capacity, not just a short-term response to higher fossil fuel prices following the US-Iran war.

Our project investigating the potential for local energy generation by wind power here has now started. Potential sites were identified, many nowhere near Blackawton! Our steering group has shortlisted some that our consultant partners will investigate in more detail, hopefully at least one of these will be viable, and more importantly acceptable to the majority of Blackawton parishioners.

Community engagement is **absolutely** vital if this project is to deliver possible benefits. As soon as we have positive news to share with parishioners there will be a community meeting to discuss the future possibilities. If you have concerns, ideas or anything to share with us please, please do e-mail [ruth@blackawtoncommunity.com](mailto:ruth@blackawtoncommunity.com) or phone for a chat **07845 598658**. It is imperative, absolutely necessary, that **all** parishioners have the opportunity to contribute their concerns, and ideas for distributing benefits that will eventually be available to improve lives and opportunities here in Blackawton parish, whilst understanding and appreciating the crisis we are facing. Please engage!

The UK remains dangerously underprepared for climate change and its consequences, its impact on health and wellbeing, the threat to national security (food supply, energy security, threats to our infrastructure) and the potential for economic collapse. Local actions accumulate, will make a difference, and could avoid the most severe consequences of climate change.

## The Ocean Clean Up

*this month's Good News* 😊

Plans to stop 90% of floating sea plastic by 2040 are underway. The Ocean Cleanup is already deploying technology designed to stop waste before it reaches the sea. Focused on rivers, where much of the waste plastic originates, and already operating in Indonesia, Colombia, India, the Philippines and the Caribbean, floating barriers stop debris as it floats downstream, while autonomous "interceptor" boats equipped with conveyor belts collect it and send it for recycling or disposal.

Targeting just 30 cities could prevent a third of the plastic currently entering the oceans. The Motagua river in Guatemala sends more plastic into the sea than all 38 members of the OECD combined. In the recent decade Ocean Cleanup has removed nearly 50 million kilograms of plastic waste from rivers and oceans around the world, and plans to tackle existing accumulation zones such as the great Pacific garbage patch by 2040.

The world needs a success story, maybe this will be a case of action inspiring action!

## West Dart Bus

### Regular services

from **Claudia Benzies**

The West Dart Community Bus serves the parishes of Blackawton and Dittisham and is available to the whole community - and well-behaved dogs. Journeys are free (and donations welcome). Sit back, enjoy the views, save on fuel, parking & frayed nerves. **Please book by 12 noon the day before**; call **01752 690444** or email **info@ringandride.net**. Or call Claudia Benzies, Coordinator, on **07712 210300**.

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 1st	The Willows, Torquay via Totnes
Friday 3rd	Dartmouth via Dittisham
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 12.00 to 12.30 pm (as requested by passengers) 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**.

## Community Shop

from **Kate Purver**

Red Hill Market Garden grows and supplies fresh, organically produced vegetables throughout the year in Blackawton.

**Seasonal Vegetable Bags** are available to order for **£12.95**. We deliver to Blackawton Community Shop every Thursday.

Order on a weekly basis - no subscription required.

To find out more please contact Jonathan on

**07747 412274** or at **redhillmarketgarden@gmail.com**



Shop telephone: **01803 712157**. Shop email: **blackawtonshop@gmail.com**  
Committee email: **shopsecretary@blackawtoncommunity.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




Here comes the summer... is it ice-cream weather?? If so, why not pop into the shop for a temperature-appropriate treat?!

We continue to have fresh, local products available to pre-order on a weekly basis:

- Red Hill market garden veg bags: Jonathan's vegetables & herbs are sustainably grown just up the road – tasty, healthy, super-fresh and super-local. (WhatsApp group for ordering).
- Hylsten Bread – artisanal sourdough loaves (also order via WhatsApp group).
- Aune valley meats - see Sue in the shop, or give her a call on **07484 813935**.

You may also have seen that we now have a small display of plants outside the shop, from the Allotment association and in aid of the allotments. (Pay in the shop; cash only).

**We are still calling out for volunteers!** Joining our team is sociable and fun – why not get involved? All training will be given, you won't have to work alone – support is always available from Sue and our other wonderful volunteers. Thank you!



### Wines of the Month

#### Hardy's VR Pinot Grigio

**this month £7.50, down from £7.95**

A delicious summer white from Australia's no.1 wine producer. Pale in colour with a bouquet of peaches and pears, this wine is fresh and vibrant with a creamy minimalism and a crisp, delicate finish. Excellent with grilled or barbecued fish.

#### Versare Cabernet Sauvignon, Italy

**usual price £7.59, this month only £7.30**

A deep ruby red wine, with a distinct and intense bouquet of blackberries and blackcurrants. With a dry, full-bodied palate it's an ideal companion for red meats, barbecues and robust cheeses.

July's **featured local artist** is **Helen Matthews**, whose decorative fused glass pieces are influenced by things she holds dear: the seaside and the coast, flowers and nature. Each piece is unique and hand-crafted in her Brixham studio. The textures created give her work a tactile element as well as visual fun – designed to make you smile. Come in and share a piece of the joy!

# Village Hall

## July events

<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>	Monday 13th, 7.30 pm.
<b>WI Monthly Meeting</b>	Wednesday 15th, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.
<b>Save Our Pub Disco Lounge</b>	Saturday 18th, 7.00 - 1.00 pm. Bar open.
<b>VOX Theatre: The Dream</b>	Friday 24th, doors 6.00, performance 7.00 pm. Bar open.
<b>Hatha Yoga</b>	Wednesdays 1st, 8th and 15th, 9.00 to 10.15 am.
<b>Chair Yoga</b>	Wednesdays 1st and 8th, 10.30 to 11.30 am.

To book yoga classes ring Hannah Roberts **07951 079608**.

## Community composting

Please only add compost to the bays when a volunteer is present. **No fly tipping.** Some things can't be recycled through small composting systems like ours e.g. woody material greater than 1 inch (2.5 cm) diameter, pernicious weeds such as bindweed, Japanese Knotweed, Ground Elder, Phormium, Cordyline, Bamboo and, of course stones, metal or plastic objects.

## Car parking

Quite a few cars regularly use 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 this month are Saturday 4th from midday, Thursday 9th 4pm - 11pm, Monday 13th 7pm - 11pm, Wednesday 15th 10am - 2pm, Saturday 18th 5pm onwards, Friday 24th 5pm onwards, 1st August midday onwards.

## Booking the Village Hall

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](http://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 fill in a booking form (available in the shop or the notice board next to the hall door) and drop it into the post box on the wall of the hall. The post box is checked weekly.

Please don't make any commitments until you receive confirmation that it has been accepted. Should an election be called, Thursday bookings are subject to cancellation with full refund of any hall fees already paid. All bookings require a security deposit.

Hirers please remember that time to set up and clear down must be included in your booking request as there may be another event immediately before and/or after your booking. Overrunning will result in part or all of your security deposit being withheld to cover refunds to the additional time and any refunds that have to be issued to other hirers if their booking is affected. The Conditions of Hire that you agree to when requesting the booking states that all rubbish must be removed from the hall and the hall left clean and tidy, please make sure that everyone involved in running your event knows and understands this. Due to these conditions being ignored recently, a minimum of £20 of your deposit will be retained if any rubbish is left and this will increase if the hall is not left clean and tidy, to cover extra cleaning costs.

# Blackawton School

from **Vicky Harris**

## Blackawton School's Biodiversity Project Flourishes

Blackawton School is celebrating a fantastic year of environmental success, with its efforts to increase local biodiversity making a real difference across the school grounds. As part of the National Education Nature Park programme, we have been inspired to take positive action for nature. Throughout the year, numerous planting projects have transformed the school environment into a thriving habitat for wildlife.

A particularly exciting development has been the launch of the Deerwood Project, working alongside a Legacy Class within the school. This long-term initiative aims to create and enhance habitats for wildlife while giving pupils the opportunity to play an active role in shaping a greener future for generations to come. The project has already sparked great enthusiasm among pupils and forms an important part of the school's commitment to environmental stewardship.

Visitors and bees arriving at our school are welcomed by a vibrant display of pollinator-friendly plants at the school entrances. A new no-mow area has been established to encourage wildflowers and insects, while additional trees and shrubs have been planted around the grounds to provide food and shelter for local wildlife.

The school's commitment to supporting birds has also expanded significantly. New bird boxes, bird tables and hanging feeders have been installed, creating valuable nesting and feeding opportunities. One of the highlights of the season has been watching a family of blue tits emerge from a bird box in the garden area—a wonderful reward for everyone's efforts.

This term, the school was also delighted to welcome local beekeepers, who shared their expertise and enthusiasm with pupils and staff. Their visit provided valuable advice on more pollinator-friendly habitats and helped guide the placement of the school's new bee observatories. These will allow pupils to safely observe bees up close and learn more about the vital role pollinators play in our ecosystem.

Meanwhile, the school's polytunnel is thriving. A range of organically grown produce, including lettuces, tomatoes, strawberries and courgettes, is growing well and will soon be available for purchase in the school shop. Residents are encouraged to keep an eye out in Blackawton's Community Shop for fresh locally grown, organic produce.

The famous "Blackawton Worms" are also hard at work. The worms have been busy transforming food scraps into nutrient-rich compost, resulting in an abundance of high-quality composting worms. Anyone

interested in starting their own wormery can purchase approximately 50 worms for £10 (RRP £25) Please contact the school office for more information.

Looking ahead, the school hopes to continue improving its sustainability efforts by increasing water collection around the site. Additional water butts are urgently needed, and the school would be grateful to hear from anyone who has a spare or disused water butt they no longer require. Donations of surplus seedlings or divided plants would also be warmly welcomed.

Blackawton School would like to thank the local community for its continued support and looks forward to building on this year's success as it continues its journey towards creating a richer, more biodiverse environment for future generations.

# Parish Council

## Parish Councillor Vacancy – Blackawton Parish Council

Blackawton Parish Council has a vacancy for one Parish Councillor.

If you care about Blackawton and would like to help shape the future of the Parish, we would be delighted to hear from you. No special qualifications are needed – just an interest in local issues, a willingness to listen and contribute, and a desire to help make a difference.

Parish Councillors help represent local residents, make decisions on matters affecting the Parish, support community projects, and oversee important local responsibilities such as managing the Cemetery and maintaining the Churchyard.

If you would like to apply, please write to the Parish Clerk. Email:

**[parishclerk@blackawtoncommunity.com](mailto:parishclerk@blackawtoncommunity.com)**.

For more information, please speak to any Parish Councillor, contact the Clerk, or visit:

**[www.blackawtoncommunity.com](http://www.blackawtoncommunity.com)**.

## Blackawton Community Emergency Hub

from **Annette Thom**

Blackawton Village Hall is a designated Community Emergency Hub.

Community Emergency Hubs are community-run spaces where local people can come together to support one another and take swift, safe and effective action in the early stages of an emergency, before emergency services are able to arrive.

During an emergency, services will always prioritise the most urgent calls, which means they may not be able to reach everyone immediately. A Community Emergency Hub helps our village respond together and provide support where it is most needed.

A Community Emergency Hub kit is kept in the cupboard above the kitchen sink in the Village Hall. The kit is a small plastic box containing instructions and resources to help local people set up and run the Hub until emergency services are available.

These Hubs depend on local volunteers – people from the community who are willing to turn up, help others and work together when it matters most.

To find out more about emergency preparedness and how communities can become more resilient, visit: Devon & Cornwall Local Resilience Forum **[www.dcisprepared.org.uk](http://www.dcisprepared.org.uk)**.

## Blackawton Parish Council meeting

from **Annette Thom**

Notes of the Monthly Meeting of Blackawton Parish Council held on Monday 8th June 2026 at 7.30 pm in Blackawton Village Hall. Complete minutes can be read at **[www.blackawtoncommunity.com](http://www.blackawtoncommunity.com)** or the parish noticeboard.

**Present:** BPC and SHDC Cllr Rake, BPC Cllrs Coe, Hadow, Luckens, Oughton, and Thomas were present, as were Clerk A Thom, and DCC Cllr Brazil for his report. There were two members of the public present.

**Absent:** All Cllrs present.

## **Open Forum**

The two members of the public were interested in separate items: one in the Wind Turbine Feasibility Study and the other in the application from The George Inn 'Save the Pub' Community Group for a grant from the Parish Council.

## **Councillors Forum**

Cllrs agreed that the Clerk would ask for the grounds maintenance work done in the Churchyard to include cutting beside all pathways to a width of one metre, cutting next to the northern/interior churchyard walls to a width of 600mm, and strimming at the bottom of the Church walls on all sides, as described in the contract, and that BPC prioritises the grounds maintenance over wildflowers in these areas.

## **Co-option to fill the Vacancy for a Blackawton Parish Councillor**

It was noted that no applications have been received to date. Cllrs were asked to discuss the vacancy with other residents, the PC will continue to advertise, and the Clerk will ask the Primary School to advertise it in its newsletters.

## **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Thomas declared an interest in The George Inn 'Save the Pub' Community Group's request for a grant, as did Cllr Coe. They will both request dispensations.

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

Cllr Brazil described a very positive end of financial year position. He said that changes in practice have led to savings, which has enabled DCC to invest more in road maintenance (£4 million more than in the budget). This time next year roads will be in a better state than they are now. He said that DCC has borrowed to invest in preventative maintenance of the roads. There is a long term, three to four year, program to get roads back up to a good state, so they are just being maintained as they should be rather than in a state of managed decline. Extra money has also been invested in Children's Services. Children's Services have had very positive reports from the Government appointed Children's Commissioner, recognising improvements. This reiterates Ofsted reports and monitoring letters of the current visits every three months.

Cllr Brazil reported that the Government has paid 90% (£180 million pounds) of the accumulated Special Education Needs and Disability debt on the condition that DCC has a sufficiency plan (such as inclusion units for schools etc). That plan has just been signed off.

DCC has had its corporate peer challenge which was very positive. It congratulated senior staff and commented on the good relationship between councillors and officers. There has been an increase from 60% to 77% of staff who recommend DCC as a place to work. The report notes the strain DCC has been under related to the local government reorganisation project. The Government will advise its decision in the next two to three weeks.

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

SHDC Cllr Rake reported that the grant scheme for disabled living facilities and similar is being tweaked to allow people with long-term degenerative diseases to access the scheme early (before an expected reduction in ability happens). Some of the Crisis Resilience Fund money is being used for South Hams Citizens Advice to employ 1.5 full-time-equivalent caseworkers to meet the needs of specific local groups such as school leavers and veterans.

Cllr Rake said that the changeover in the management of the Leisure Centres has now taken place. It has gone very smoothly because of the work done by SHDC. The Centres stayed open and all memberships and bookings were honoured. The Centres are now being run on a management basis rather than under contract. SHDC receives all the money earned, pays the bills, and pays Parkwood a percentage based fee.

There is a change coming in how planning decisions are made. Currently SHDC has its own scheme of delegation. Decisions may be made by an officer, an officer with a councillor, or by the Planning Committee. From this autumn a national delegation scheme will be imposed. Small applications will be determined by officers. Major applications will come to the Planning Committee. If it's a major application of over 150 homes and the Planning Committee are minded to refuse the application the application will go straight to the Planning Inspectorate. Cllr Rake gave his view that this a retrograde step and an assault on local democracy. In response to the changes SHDC has reduced the size of the Planning Committee.

## **Planning Applications**

South Hams District Council's Planning Decisions

0902/26/HHO 26 French Furze Road Blackawton TQ9 7FN. Householder application for rear extension and alterations to existing dwelling. **Conditional Approval.**

0795/26/HHO 65 French Furze Road Blackawton TQ9 7FN. Householder application for proposed rear dormer to form additional bedroom with en-suite. **Withdrawn.**

0895/26/PAA Wild Bank Farm Blackawton TQ9 7AAPAA for 0211/26/AGR. **Prior Approval Required and Given.**

0862/26/HHO Stone House Farm Blackawton TQ9 7DE. Householder application for single storey rear extension & revised front entrance. **Conditional Approval.**

1336/26/AGR Valley View, Blackawton, TQ9 7DH. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a general purpose agricultural building. **Prior Approval Not Required.**

Planning Inspectorate's Decisions

Appeal #6003579, SHDC Application 1520/25/PDM, Woodford Barn, Blackawton, Totnes. **Dismissed.**

Appeal #6003542, SHDC Application 1505/25/PDM, Woodford Barn, Blackawton, Totnes. **Dismissed.**

Review of New Applications

1466/26/HHO 2 Greenslade Road Blackawton TQ9 7BP. Demolish & replace existing conservatory with minor alterations.

1233/26/VAR Larcombe Farm East Allington TQ9 7QB. Application for variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning consent 1714/24/FUL.

No response will be made to SHDC on either of the applications above.

The meeting noted that no extraordinary meeting was considered necessary to comment:

New Club premises certificate application, Dartmouth Ruby Club, Dartmouth TQ6 9RR. Licence application for Supply and Consumption of alcohol on/off the premises. Closed 5 June 2026.

### **French Furze Development**

A draft traffic management plan for the Business Units' car parking area has been received from the developer. The Plan has to be submitted to SHDC prior to the Units' occupation. No response has come back from the developer regarding the Business Units' snagging list. There will be a public French Furze residents' meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday 17 June. A new more local management company has been selected.

### **Wind Turbine Feasibility Study**

It was resolved to approve the proposed Terms of Reference document for the Steering Group (Advisory Committee). It was resolved to formally appoint the three Sustainable Blackawton members of the Steering Group: J. Scott, C. Massey, and C. Everard. The Steering Group has met with the study provider and given feedback on potential sites, achieving a shortlist of four sites for further assessment. The Clerk advised that payment of an invoice for Work Package 1 should be deferred because not all of that work has been carried out. It was resolved to delegate to the Clerk, in consultation with the Steering Group, the authority to decide when to pay that invoice.

### **Grant Application from The George Inn 'Save the Pub' Community Group**

It was resolved to approve the request for a grant of £580 to fund: Plunkett Foundation membership (£270 for first year) and a £310 one-off cost to use its model rules for a Community Benefit Society.

Cllr Thomas reported that the Group is accessing 15 hours of 'free' advice time from the Plunkett Foundation. Cllr Thomas said that the Plunkett Foundation has asked if the Parish Council supports the Group and that BPC can show support with the grant. The grant will enable the next stages of project. A legal structure is needed for a bank account. Seed funding will be needed, for example to pay for a formal valuation. The group has a website ([www.saveourpubblackawton.co.uk](http://www.saveourpubblackawton.co.uk)) and t-shirts are coming.

### **Churchyard Contract to cut back vegetation growing on Churchyard Walls**

It was resolved to: note that the first cut was completed in May as scheduled and that ivy was removed from the lychgate without damaging it, to alter the contract specifications to allow removal of ivy from gate piers, and to accept Cllr Luckens offer to carry out repointing work to the lychgate piers with materials costs paid by BPC.

### **Annual Governance and Accountability Return 25/26 Financial Year**

25/26 Internal Audit. The meeting noted the Auditor's Report. The Report says that the Council has met all control objectives.

25/26 Audit Annual Governance Statement & 25/26 Audit Accounting Statements. These were considered and their signature was completed.

Publication of Notice of Public Rights & Publication of Annual Governance & Accountability Return. The Return & Notice will be published on the website and noticeboard, with inspection dates from Monday 15 June 2026 to Friday 24 July 2026.

### **Financial Reports**

Update on Current Financial Position. The Reports and Bank Reconciliation showed a total balance of £68,196.73 and an unearmarked general fund of £28,067.08.

Payments. Authorised by the Meeting:

Clerk, May Expenses Reimbursement

£45.57

Cllr Coe, Parish Meeting Refreshments Reimbursement	£37.02
Grounds Maintenance Frequent cuts May 13 and 27 Churchyard & Cemetery	£210.00 £228.00
Internal Audit 25/26	£165.00
Churchyard wall vegetation cut back (when invoice received)	£750.00
Cemetery Hedge roadside face cut 2026	£90.00
Authorised since the last monthly meeting:	
Works to broken Monterey Cypress branches as per quote	£432.00

### **BPC Policies and Procedures**

It was resolved to adopt:

Disciplinary Policy and Grievance Policy (new policies)

Document Retention and Disposal Schedule (reviewed).

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall on **Monday 13th July 2026** at 7.30 pm. You are most welcome to join the meeting and raise any issues which may be of concern to you.

## **Council contacts**

Cllr Ruth Coe	07845 598658	ruth@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Sue Hadow	07306 007681	sue@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Rob Luckens	07949 179872	rob@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	07979 391442	parishclerk@blackawtoncommunity.com
Tree Wardens, Will Benzies	07583 599452	(& Bob Harvey)

### **Other contacts**

South Hams Cllr Simon Rake	01803 861129	Cllr.Simon.Rake@southhams.gov.uk
South Hams District Council	01803 861234	customer.services@southhams.gov.uk
SHDC emergency out of hours	01803 867034	
Devon County Cllr Julian Brazil	01548 511109 07970 971140	julian.brazil@devon.gov.uk
Devon County Council	0345 155 1015	customer@devon.gov.uk
Police non-urgent reporting	101	101@dc.police.uk

or online form at [www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/your-area/teams/Dartmouth/Contact](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/your-area/teams/Dartmouth/Contact)

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

# the Wider Community

## **Dart Art Day and Children's Hospice South West**

from **Ann Green**

Join us in the **Royal Avenue Gardens** on **Saturday 4th July 2026** (10am- 4pm) for our annual art and craft day. The gardens will be full of individual, creative and unique local art and craft stalls as well as live music and entertainment with something for the whole family. Treat yourself to a homemade cake and cream tea by the glorious River Dart.

This is a fundraising event by the local Friends branch of Children's Hospice South West, a local charity which supports children with life limiting conditions and their families. There are three purpose-built hospices within the South West, ensuring no family is more than an hour away from these amazing facilities and their caring specialist teams.

***Have a fabulous day out and support this incredible charity.***

## **Dartmouth Caring**

from **April Faulkner**

Dee Nutt MBE, President of Dartmouth Caring

Healthcare champion and charity leader Dee Nutt has taken on the honorary role of President of Dartmouth Caring, after an impressive 20 years driving the charity forward as Chair of Trustees.

Dee's background gave her the unique ability to see the support needed in the Dartmouth community and she drove forward rapid change and created crucial services such as counselling and home-from-hospital support. She was instrumental in establishing long-lasting relations with Dartmouth Medical Practice. Her foresight and passion to work closely with the NHS paid dividends in the creation of the town's Health and Wellbeing Centre. Dee did a huge amount of work in the background over a ten year period, to help develop the concept of the Centre and to secure a place for Dartmouth Caring in the building.

After 20 years as Chair of Trustees, President Dee Nutt has an unwavering commitment to the community's health and wellbeing and is very proud of what Dartmouth Caring continues to achieve.

## from the Editor

The Beacon is produced monthly and distributed 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 **Wednesday 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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# Parish Diary

## July 2026

Wednesday 1st	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to The Willows via Totnes	Bus shelter
	9.00 am	Hatha Yoga	Village Hall
	10.30 am	Chair Yoga	Village Hall
Friday 3rd	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 4th	10.00 am	Children's Hospice South West Dart Art Day	Royal Avenue Gardens, Dartmouth
Sunday 5th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
Tuesday 7th	7.00 pm	Sustainable Blackawton meeting	Figtree, Vicarage Road
Wednesday 8th	9.00 am	Hatha Yoga	Village Hall
	10.30 am	Chair Yoga	Village Hall
Friday 10th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 11th	2.30 pm	Blackawton Church Fête	Figtree, Vicarage Road
Sunday 12th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
Monday 13th	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Wednesday 15th	9.00 am	Hatha Yoga	Village Hall
	10.30 am	WI Monthly Meeting	Village Hall
Friday 17th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 18th	7.00 pm	The Hamiltons Disco Lounge for Save Our Pub	Village Hall
Sunday 19th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
Wednesday 22nd		Beacon deadline for August edition	
Friday 24th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
	7.00 pm	VOX Theatre: The Dream	Village Hall
Sunday 26th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
Wednesday 29th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Newton Abbot via Totnes	Bus shelter
Friday 31st	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter

