



# Blackawton Beacon

## June 2026

published jointly by the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council



**Blackawton Amateur Dramatic Society**

## Variety Show

Village Hall

**Saturday 6th June at 6.00 pm**

£3.00 for adults £1.00 children (free for performers)

We have a fantastic line-up taking shape, including a variety of different music styles, a short talk on the wonderful world of animals, comedy, sketches. And, of course, a **raffle**.

You've still got time to practise your song or other piece of music, or perfect your magic trick or find (or write!) a sketch to put on with a friend or two. Please give your name – and encourage others to – to Chris Hamilton ([hamilton.christine33@yahoo.com](mailto:hamilton.christine33@yahoo.com)) or another BADS committee member.

*Or just come along and enjoy the show.*

## The Big Lunch

from Rosemary U'ren

**Sunday 7th June from 12.30 pm**

in Blackawton Churchyard (if wet in church)

Join other villagers for an informal bring-and-share lunch. If you can please bring something shareable to eat – savoury or sweet – and something to drink, and a plate, bowl, knife, fork and spoon. Tables and chairs provided. If you can't bring anything, come anyway and bring your friends and neighbours!

*No cost and all are welcome.*

If you have any questions please phone Rosemary on **01548 521278**.

## Teddy Bears' Parachute Jump

from Kate Janman

Bring your teddy (or other cuddly friend) along to the church at

**3.00 pm on Sunday 28th June**

with his or her parachute. There will be prizes for the **best-looking parachute** as well as for the **slowest descent**. Please note that only the official launchers will go up the tower – all human supporters view from ground level.



*Tea and cake afterwards.*

# St Michael's Church

## Services for June

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>
Sunday 7th	9.30 am	Holy Communion (by extension)
Sunday 15th	9.30 am	Breakfast Church
Sunday 21st	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 28th	9.30 am 3.00 pm	Morning Worship Teddy Bears' Parachute Jump

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 Ramblings

from **Frank Robinson**

Lyn and I watched the programme celebrating the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough - a truly remarkable man. One of the scenes that moved me most was when he was playing with a family of upland gorillas - romping around with the infants while the adults looked on. He completely dispelled the myth that gorillas are aggressive and dangerous (and said it is us who are aggressive and dangerous).

So who counts as human? At the beginning of the 20th century, an Australian administrator defended the policy of forcibly removing children of mixed race from Aboriginal parents on the grounds that "they soon forget their offspring". The idea that some human beings simply do not share the primal emotions by which we define ourselves as human was frequently used and still is used today: 'they don't feel as we do'.

David Attenborough was recently told by one of the West's best known political leaders that he "Offends Jesus". Attenborough replied, calm but firm: "You want to know what actually offends Jesus? Turning your back on the vulnerable - whether they are people in need or the fragile ecosystems that sustain life". And he went on "You want to know what else offends Jesus? Ignoring the suffering of others. Treating the natural world as disposable. Forgetting that we are all connected, and that our actions affect generations to come". And there was more on compassion and responsibility, and what it truly means to care - for one another and for the world we share.

Enough! We are in Christian Aid Week and, I think, Mental Health Awareness Week. I will leave you with a message from Isaiah telling us to listen for God's voice saying: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine". And that's all of us!!

God bless you all.

## 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



## Save our pub!

from **Hannah Smith**

Thank you so much to everyone who has shown their enthusiasm and support for our campaign to save our village pub! We now have a dedicated core team in place, backed by a growing number of volunteers who have kindly offered their support as this project develops.

We are excited to report that we have engaged the Plunkett Foundation to support us as we move forward. The Plunkett Foundation is a charity that supports rural communities to set up and run community owned businesses. Once we have a clearer picture of our next steps, we will be in contact with everyone who has kindly volunteered to get involved.

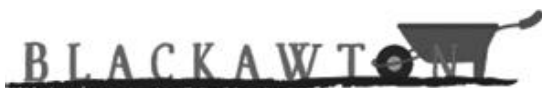
We also now have a Facebook page where we will be sharing updates. Search '**Save our pub - The George Inn Blackawton**' and follow the page to stay up to date. We look forward to sharing further updates as soon as we can!

If you'd like to get in touch, please email us at: [georgeinncommunity@gmail.com](mailto:georgeinncommunity@gmail.com).

## Save the date: Disco Lounge is back!

from **Christine Hamilton**

**Save our pub** will run a disco in Blackawton Village Hall on **Saturday 18th July**, 7.00 - 11.00 pm. Adults £5, children £2. Bar available. All ages welcome. Dust off those dancing shoes and come along!



## Blackawton Allotment Association

from **Jill Kelly**

Thank you to everyone who supported our plant sale at Wormcharming and its continuation outside the community shop. We hope to have a further sale at the Village Show in September. In the meantime, look out for further plants on sale from time to time at the shop.

Please contact the Secretary at [allotments@blackawtoncommunity.com](mailto:allotments@blackawtoncommunity.com) if you are interested in an allotment plot.

## Blackawton WI

from **Sandra Tope**

Last month saw our Annual Meeting take place where a resumé of the previous year was given, and the committee were re-elected. It is not the most exciting meeting but has to be done. Once the business was over with, we had a quiz and coffee and biscuits. Dates for all our various clubs were given out, including our Book Club and craft club. We have been busy making knitted items and clothing for us to sell at our various fundraising opportunities.

Our June meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th, at 10.30 am in the Village Hall. Our speaker is Rachel May from Devon and Somerset Fire Service, who will be giving us a fire safety talk. I'm sure we will learn a thing or two, and so hopefully make our homes a little safer. The competition is for a toy vehicle and of course, the usual bloom competition. Visitors are always welcome to come along.

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

## West Dart Bus

### News

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. Currently, the bus goes to Dartmouth every week and once a month to The Willows and to Newton Abbot. These community trips are free and driven by trained volunteers. We only ask for donations.

**We want to hear your thoughts** about the West Dart Bus timetable, and any other ideas. Should we change the timetable? At present Dittisham residents are the majority on Fridays and want to keep the Friday trips to Dartmouth. Would you want weekly trips to Totnes, and on to The Willows and Newton Abbot monthly? Would you use it and which days? Please let us know; speak to your friends and neighbours, and tell your bus driver or contact Claudia, **07712 210300**.

**Recruitment.** Currently all the drivers, except one, are from Dittisham and Cornworthy, including two new drivers awaiting the free volunteer training. Here's an opportunity for anyone else interested in driving the bus. **Come on, Blackawton ...** Call Claudia, or Alex at Ivybridge (details below).

**Relief Driver(s)** are needed as occasional standby for the regular school bus driver. The West Dart Bus has the Blackawton School contract for the twice-daily run between Blackawton and Dittisham. Call Claudia, or Alex Thom (details below) if you might be able to help.

**We now have a second bus with wheelchair access** - available for hire soon. Drivers will be trained in using the lift and access equipment.

## 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**. 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 June:

Wednesday 3rd	The Willows, Torquay via Totnes
Friday 5th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 12th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 19th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Wednesday 24th	Newton Abbot via Totnes
Friday 26th	Dartmouth via Dittisham

All trips depart from Blackawton Bus Shelter at 9.30 am. Return trips depart at 12.30 pm (return time flexible upon request) 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**.

## Blackawton in Bloom

from **Jill Kelly**

We have a couple of volunteers who kindly water the hanging baskets on the bus shelter. However, we could do with someone willing to help on occasion when other volunteers are away. If you could do this, please contact me on **jillrkelly@outlook.com** or **07879 494914**. Thank you.

## Treen

from **Bob Harvey**

### National Land Use Strategy

"Can't see the wood for the trees." is commonly quoted and this unfortunately is exactly what this report demonstrates. Saints preserve us from starry-eyed conservationists who float in a permanent state of levitation so that their feet never make contact with the mud and filth of farmers' fields and forest floors – and the need to make a living. I've done it. Active lobbying by the NFU has made some impression on the attitude to food production but the forestry sector is completely ignored. Commercial forestry creates far, far more trees for carbon capture than amateur tree planting schemes, and conifers provide much more useful timber in a third of the time taken by broadleaves.

This Government, and the last, puts high priority on housebuilding for homes and wants more houses to be low carbon timber construction – as in Europe for decades. Houses need softwood timber for floors, for doors and a lot for roof structures. Even more if the walls are low carbon timber too. You can't buy timber roof trusses from Middle Lidl, you have to buy them from, say, Putin who has an almost unlimited supply – at a cost. Watch this space.

## Blackawton and Strete History Group

from **Andrea Scott**

### “Show and Tell” evening

**Thursday June 4th at 7.00 pm**

at Figtree, Vicarage Road

We invite you to bring something special and to share its story – something related to Blackawton or something old or quirky, or just something much loved. Do come and enjoy a fun, relaxed evening.

Please call Andrea on **01803 712753** to let us know you are coming, or for more information.

## Community compost site

The site continues to be open 10.00-12.00 on Sunday for garden material, to date we have received material every week since opening in early December 2025 (except 17th May!). We now have almost enough material to be shredded into the bay of soft material. The shed to hold items we need (fork, broom, wheelbarrow etc) to manage the site is now built, and we are grateful to Playing Fields Committee for allowing it to be sited beside the tennis court. Just requires a padlock to secure!

## Aluminium drinks cans

Please remember to recycle these in the village at Tin Lizzie Crusher by the Community Shop! Don't just put them out for SHDC – our young folk need funds from this resource!

### UK Company repurposing old EV batteries

*this month's Good News* 😊

A valid criticism of a major rollout of EVs has been the question of battery disposal. UK company Connected Energy specialises in repurposing EV batteries to store energy. They combine 'second life' EV batteries into giant power packs, to provide a reliable supply of onsite electricity to sectors such as data centres, with power supplied to the batteries from a local source like solar PV, wind or hydro. They may also trade energy, buying, and storing, excess power from the grid at low cost and selling it back when the price is higher.

The obvious sustainability advantage is taking a potential waste problem, a hefty spent battery, and turning it into a key component of the fast-growing renewable energy system. As more sectors, especially transport, electrify more spent batteries will become a potential waste problem. (Not sure if e-bike batteries are yet considered!)

## Wind power feasibility study

Community Power Solutions has now started our Wind Power feasibility study, and are about to review with our steering group the initial survey of potential sites. This project is comprehensive and will take several months to complete, and includes engagement with this community to discover your views. Please will **all** local residents discuss, support or object. so that everyone has a say. This is an important contribution to the future of Blackawton, and to our potential to invest in the whole community. As the demand for electricity increases, more technology, more heat pumps, more EVs, our reliance on imported energy becomes even more of a security issue. Locally generated, locally used renewable electricity is now recognised as crucial for our future prosperity.

The Met Office has reported that we will all soon need air con at home, at work and in schools, hospitals and prisons! SO . . . more electricity demand! We will need locally generated power!

## Ostrich? Or informed citizen?

It is very tempting, in this era of misinformation, half-truths and lies, to ignore all of it, "head in the sand" style. However, while not all threats are resolved by facing them, **no** threat was ever resolved by **not** facing it. Last November a National Emergency Briefing, with ten speakers on topics severely impacted by climate change, presented to an audience of 1200, including politicians, leaders of charities, companies and communities. Unfortunately only 100 of the over 600 politicians accepted the invitation to attend, and this existential threat to all of us is hardly ever covered by the media. Online access is **www.nebriefing.org**.

A film based on that presentation "The People's Emergency Briefing" is now being shown in many venues across this country, more than 1,000 so far. There are several local venues where the film may be seen, for example Totnes Cinema, Kingsbridge, Stoke Gabriel and Ivybridge, and the original presentation with full speeches from all ten speakers remains available online. Founders are demanding that the film be shown on prime time TV.

Sustainable Blackawton plan to show the film in our village hall later, probably in the autumn maybe on a Sunday afternoon. Please take the opportunity to be an informed citizen rather than an ostrich!

# Village Hall

## June events

### **BADS Variety Show**

Saturday 6th, doors open 5.30, show starts 6.00 pm.  
The Village Hall bar will be operating. All ages welcome.

### **Parish Council Meeting**

Monday 8th, 7.30 pm.

**WI Monthly Meeting** Wednesday 17th, 10.30 am to 1.00 pm.

**French Furze meeting** Wednesday 17th, 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm.

**England World Cup Football matches on the big screen**

The Village Hall bar will be operating.

Wednesday 17th, 9.00 pm to midnight.

Tuesday 23rd, 6.00 pm to Wednesday 24th 9.00 am.

Saturday 27th, 6.00 pm to midnight.

**Hatha Yoga**

Wednesdays 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th, 9.00 to 10.15 am.

**Chair Yoga**

Wednesdays 3rd, 10th & 24th, 10.30 to 11.30 am.

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

**Community composting**

every Sunday, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm.

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 6th evening, Saturday 12th daytime, Wednesday 17th evening from 6.00 pm, Tuesday 23rd evening from 5.30 pm, Friday 26th all day until 7.00 pm and Saturday 27th evening from 5.30 pm.

**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**. 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.

# Community Shop

from **Kate Purver**

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

Did you know? - if you order **Aune Valley meat** from the shop, it costs you the same as it would do going directly to Aune Valley - plus you help support the shop! So if you like the produce from this award-winning, local farm business, no need to find the time to go and get it. Ordering it from the shop is simple: just phone, or pop in and speak to Sue; we place the order on Wednesday mornings for delivery on Thursday afternoon.



We are still calling out for **volunteers!** This is a friendly and sociable environment with a fabulous team – so why not get involved? In particular, we really need another person able to do the opening-up shift, 7.30 - 9.00 am. In this shift we see in the bread delivery, price and display it, check dates and fridge temperatures and get the shop presentable for the day. Or if you'd prefer to be more sociable, serving on the till during opening hours is great for that! 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

### **Isla Negra Sauvignon Blanc** - £7.60 (down from £7.95)

This popular, affordable Chilean white has a bright and zesty profile, with notes of lime, grapefruit, and gooseberry. Dry, crisp, and refreshing and with low alcohol content (only 10.5% ABV; most whites are 12% or 13%) - it's ideal for summer drinking. Great with seafood, salads and vegetarian dishes or as an aperitif.

### **Versare Rosé Pinot Grigio** - £7.50 (usually £7.85)

A top choice for summer get-togethers! From the Veneto region of north-eastern Italy. Crisp, refreshing, and affordable, its light, fruity profile has delicate strawberry and citrus flavours. Pairs well with grilled fish and summer salads.

June's **featured local artist** is Shirley, whose handmade jewellery includes bracelets, necklaces and earrings. Shirley writes *"I've lived in Blackawton for 29 fabulous years and alongside my crazy-busy travel business, I like to find time to be creative by making jewellery. I am obsessed with making sparkly things - maybe I was a magpie in another life! Love a blow torch and a hammer... I'm enjoying silversmithing courses at the moment to better my skills, which is a challenge and something I really enjoy - making a unique piece from a flat sheet of silver is so satisfying. I feel very honoured that Sue has asked me to display in the shop."*

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](mailto:redhillmarketgarden@gmail.com)



# Parish Council

## The Thoughts of Chairman Rake

from **Simon Rake**

### Fighting a losing battle, but help may be on its way

Forgive me for repeating myself, but it's that time of year again. The barbarians are at the gates and now is the time to act if we are to hold them back. The barbarian in question is *impatiens glandulifera* or Himalayan Balsam – an invasive plant that competes (on vastly unequal terms) with native species for light, water, space, nutrients and pollinators. It has a predilection for river banks and roadside verges, but will happily colonise almost anywhere it is allowed to. This is the best time of year to try to fox its cunning plan. Shallow-rooted, and easily identified by its size, fleshy pinkish green stems and pointy leaves (a Google image search will help if you don't know what it looks like) it can be pulled up or cut down ideally before it flowers, and certainly before it sets seed. The seed pods are highly explosive, flinging their contents far and wide, so once they have formed attempts at disposal are probably counter-productive.

Left to its own devices, it will fling its seeds and then, once autumn comes, die back. On riverbanks the above-mentioned fleshy stems will fall into the river, leaving bare earth that will erode over winter, and clog the water course, potentially increasing the risk of flooding. When it is at the roadside, the problems are similar, with exposed earth washing onto highways and gumming up road drainage.

On the whole, Himalayan Balsam grows in clumps, so a satisfying number of plants can be cleared in fairly short order. Once you have your eye in, though, you often see bolder specimens that have broken away from the main group to claim new territory for themselves. All of this, in part, to explain why at this time of year you may see me clambering around in the verges of our lanes, as I seek to uproot a stray plant that has established itself deep in a hedgerow. As undignified as this may appear, repeated visits to the top of the lane leading to Short's Cross have allowed us to establish a sort of cordon sanitaire preventing this particular green meany from coming further down the lane towards the village. Other local roads are not as lucky and it is rapidly spreading along them.

Scientists are taking a less hands-on approach; recent research has identified a rust fungus that is specific to the plant. This weakens seedlings, giving native species a greater chance to outcompete them, and continues to attack more mature plants, again stunting their growth. Encouragingly, the fungus has proved itself capable of over-wintering in UK conditions, hanging around in leaf litter so it can get back to work the following spring.

So long as you stay safe, then I would encourage you to spend a little time in the noble quest of pulling up as many of these invasive plants as possible. It might just be me, but there is a strange sort of peace that can come over one as you methodically work your way through a stand of Balsam. Happy pulling!

## **Blackawton Parish Council meeting**

from **Annette Thom**

Notes of the Monthly Meeting of Blackawton Parish Council held on Monday 11th May 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, and Thomas were present, as were Clerk A Thom, and DCC Cllr Brazil for his report. There were no members of the public present.

**Absent:** Cllr Oughton.

### **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**

#### **Election of Chair**

It was unanimously resolved to re-elect Cllr Rake as Chair.

#### **Election of Vice-Chair**

It was unanimously resolved to re-elect Cllr Oughton as Vice-Chair subject to his acceptance.

#### **Terms of Reference for Personnel Committee and Subcommittee**

It was resolved to approve the document.

#### **To appoint members of the Personnel Committee and Subcommittee**

Cllrs Rake, Oughton, and Hadow were re-appointed to continue as the Personnel Committee and Subcommittee.

#### **To appoint the Chair of the Personnel Committee**

It was unanimously resolved to re-elect Cllr Rake as Chair.

#### **BPC's Delegations of Authority to the Clerk**

The proposed document was implemented by resolution. It was resolved to implement the risk assessment regarding the appointment of a Cllr as temporary clerk and RFO. The delegation for the Clerk and RFO to authorise expenditure without consultation would be revoked while a Cllr temporarily fills the roles.

#### **BPC's Standing Orders & BPC's Financial Regulations**

It was resolved to adopt the proposed documents. There are no new model documents.

#### **Asset Register as at 31/03/26**

The Asset Register was confirmed.

#### **Arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks**

The new three year agreement which ends 3/5/29 was noted.

#### **Subscriptions to other bodies, Contracts, & Direct Debit Mandate**

The arrangements were reviewed and no changes were made.

#### **Review of the Council's Bank Signatory Mandate, and the Banking arrangements' security and efficiency**

It was agreed that the existing three signatories are sufficient pending the co-option of a new Cllr. The mandate will be updated to remove the Cllr who resigned recently.

**Approval of the list of due payments which arise on a regular basis as the result of a continuing contract, statutory duty, or obligation, and which will be authorised by the Council and paid in response to correct invoices**

The existing list was confirmed.

**25/26 financial year expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972**

The expenditure was noted (£307.78).

**List of the Council's Policies and Procedures**

The list was noted. The Clerk advised the meeting that the Data Retention and Disposal Policy was reviewed in March 2026 and its approval by BPC will be on BPC's June Agenda, as will Disciplinary and Grievance Policies. The review of Privacy Notices will be addressed by the July meeting of BPC.

**2026 Statement of Internal Controls**

The Statement was approved.

**2026 Risk Register Review, Business Continuity Plan, Risk Assessment for the Temporary Appointment of a Councillor as Clerk (Proper Officer) and RFO**

The proposed documents were confirmed. Cllr Luckens was reappointed to be a Temporary Clerk (Proper Officer) and RFO in the event of the sudden absence of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

The Council acknowledges that a Cllr in the role of Clerk and RFO combines member and officer functions, and that the councillor assisting by temporarily carrying out the roles is not trained or experienced in the roles, therefore the arrangement presents some risk. To mitigate these risks, the delegated authority granted to the Clerk to authorise payments alone would be suspended with immediate effect and the Temporary Clerk/RFO shall not approve any payments (with the bank). Training BPC Cllrs, such as the training booked for June 2026, also mitigates the risk and helps to ensure correct practice.

**Time and Place of Ordinary Meetings of the Full Council**

The Parish Council will continue to meet on the second Monday of every month except August at 7:30 pm in the Blackawton Village Hall.

**Appointments to special areas of responsibility:**

Blackawton Tree Warden. The meeting confirmed the arrangement of two tree wardens sharing the role. Snow Warden and Footpath Warden. The meeting noted that these positions are currently vacant.

**May Meeting of the Parish Council**

**Report from South Hams District Council Councillor**

SHDC Cllr Rake reported that Fusion Leisure is in administration. SHDC had already lined up a replacement provider: Parkwood Leisure who operate in Torbay and elsewhere. So a smooth transfer of Centres and staff will take place. Membership and bookings will all be transferred. There is a cost to SHDC because it will not be paid under the contract and accrued bad debt will be written off. SHDC is paying an administrator to run the Centres during the changeover and Parkwood is paying differently. Parkwood will take share of turnover. It is expected the Centres will run at a small loss, but they are an important community asset. Under this arrangement there is more incentive to increase business. SHDC has more input in targets and VAT can now be reclaimed by SHDC. Centre user numbers have now improved and are better than prior to the COVID pandemic.

SHDC is now starting to make grant payments to residents under an heating oil support scheme. It is means tested. Residents can apply via the SHDC website or by phoning SHDC. If residents use gas heating they can apply to a related fund.

SHDC had an above budget 2025-26 year end financial position which has now been spent on the Leisure Centres. It is expected that the Secretary of State will make a decision about Local Government Reorganisation in early July.

**Report from Devon County Council Councillor**

DCC Cllr Brazil reported that the reinstatement of the Slapton Line road would cost about £20 million. DCC is waiting for the Government's decision about whether the Government will fund the works. In the meantime DCC is working to improve the back-roads, mainly those running north-south (i.e. Five Mile and Three Mile roads). It is planning works to improve line of sight, to tarmac passing places, and may create new passing places. About £1.5 million will be invested.

There is now a one way traffic system creating a circular flow of traffic in Kingsbridge town centre and the traffic lights have gone. There is free car parking in the Quay and Fore Street car parks from 2 pm. Cllr Brazil encourages residents to try to shop in Kingsbridge and to support our local towns.

DCC has just had its briefing on the 2025-26 financial year-end financial position, which was very positive. The outcome changed from an expected deficit to a surplus. DCC has been able to invest in Children's Services and repairing potholes. There are four new teams in Devon which work to fix potholes on the same day they are reported or the next day. £15 million has been borrowed for preventive maintenance. This

was possible because the Government paid its SEND debt, which in turn allowed borrowing to save more in long term. Doing things well is saving money e.g. there are more full time social work staff so less is spent on higher cost temporary staffing. Pilot scheme research was done evaluating filling nearby potholes as well as the identified fault. The data is being considered by the DCC Cabinet on 20 May. The evidence supports this approach if the 'nearby' area is not too big.

Cllr Brazil offered funding from his DCC Locality Budget for BPC's planned regular strimming of the visibility splay at Forces Cross by the Blackawton Parish Lengthsman. This was supported by BPC Cllrs.

Cllr Rake raised an issue with car parking in the Grove damaging an area of grass verge. Work is needed to establish who owns the affected land and residents' preferred solution.

Cllr Brazil reported that land has been purchased to create another community woodland at West Charleton. DEFRA has bought the land and the Woodland Trust is providing the trees and fencing to protect the trees from deer. Volunteers will be needed to plant the trees.

### **Planning Applications**

South Hams District Council's Planning Decisions.

0917/26/ARC Bow Farm Blackawton TQ9 7AH. Application for approval of details reserved by condition 7 (Sustainable Drainage Option) of planning consent 1799/25/HHO. **Discharge of Condition Approved.**

0865/26/TCA 3 Church Hill Blackawton TQ9 7BQ. T1: Oak – remove, too large, causing excessive shading, too close to power line. **Raise No Objections.**

Review of New Applications.

Variation application for a premises licence (SHPL0398) at Dartmouth Golf & Country Club, Blackawton, Dartmouth, TQ9 7DE for Supply of alcohol, ADD to the non-standard timings to permit sale of alcohol to residents of the hotel and bona fide guests at all times ON/OFF the premises (24 hours a day). Live Music, to extend the terminal hour for live music Mondays to Saturdays until 01:00 the following mornings and Sundays until midnight, indoors only. Plays, to permit performance of plays Sundays to Thursdays from 19:00 to 01:00 the following mornings, indoors only.

0895/26/PAA Wild Bank Farm Blackawton TQ9 7AA PAA for 0211/26/AGR Application to determine if prior approval is required for five polytunnels.

The above were noted. No comments are being submitted by BPC.

### **French Furze Development**

Some outstanding snagging work has been done to the Business Units, including cleaning the exterior. Work is scheduled this week for kitchen sockets and to address water ingress. The traffic management plan is outstanding and expected. Then another meeting will be held with the developer. The Business Units CIC has been offered £20,000 from SHDC, which SHDC holds under s106 to be used for economic development.

### **Wind Turbine Feasibility Study**

It was resolved to accept the proposal to increase the Steering Group membership to three Parish Councillors (Cllrs Rake, Coe, and Hadow), three members of Sustainable Blackawton, and the Clerk, and that the Steering Group will require four present to be quorate. The Study provider has provided an initial project plan, draft risk register, and project structure. They have completed the initial local area study and will present it to a Steering Group meeting next week.

### **Finance**

Update on Current Financial Position. The Reports (which show a total balance of £71,174.71 and an unearmarked general fund of £30,655.06) and Bank Reconciliation were noted.

Payments. It was resolved to authorise the following payments:

Clerk April Expenses Reimbursement	£8.04
Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management	
2026/2027 Membership	£110.00
Highway safety training	£132.00
Grounds Maintenance: War memorial	£36.00
Cemetery biodiversity cut	£42.00
Cemetery cuts 1, 15, and 29 April	£315.00
Churchyard cuts 1, 15, and 29 April	£342.00
Society of Local Council Clerks Annual Fee	£200.00
Payment authorised since the last monthly meeting noted:	
Rowan trees, stakes, ties, & fertiliser	£672.52

### **Parish Lengthsman Contract**

Strimming the visibility splay at Forces Cross has been added to the Parish Lengthsman's contract.

## Correspondence

The following were noted or considered:

- Email 30/4/26 from Strete Parish Council regarding the Start Bay Coastal erosion.
- Invitation Caroline Voaden MP to Town and Parish Councils, Role of Neighbourhood Plans in planning policy, Halwell & Moreleigh Community Hall, 11/6/26 13.45 – 15.15. Cllrs Rake and Coe will attend as BPC's representatives.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall on **Monday 8th June 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	01803 712111	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	julian.brazil@devon.gov.uk
	07970 971140	
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)

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## Stanborough Chorus

from **Claudia Benzies**

### Summer Cream Tea Concert

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**Sunday 14th June at 3.00 pm**

Malborough Village Hall

Tickets £10 (includes cream tea). Available from Kingsbridge Information Centre, choir members and online at [www.stanboroughchorus.com](http://www.stanboroughchorus.com).

## Dartmouth Caring

from **April Faulkner**

### New Drop In

Starting on Monday 1st June, 11.00 am - 1.00 pm.

A safe space for women who've experienced any kind of domestic or sexual abuse.

*A friendly supportive group. Come and enjoy a cuppa with us.*

Where: **Dartmouth Health & Wellbeing Centre**, Wessex Way, Dartmouth, TQ6 0JL

Contacts: Dartmouth Caring **01803 835384** Phoenix team **07754 976489**.

# 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 July edition is **Sunday 21st June**.

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

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## June 2026

Wednesday 3rd	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
Thursday 4th	7.00 pm	BASH "Show and Tell" evening	Figtree, Vicarage Road
Friday 5th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 6th	6.00 pm	BADS Variety Show	Village Hall
Sunday 7th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
	12.30 pm	The Big Lunch	Churchyard
Monday 8th	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Wednesday 10th	9.00 am	Hatha Yoga	Village Hall
	10.30 am	Chair Yoga	Village Hall
Friday 12th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Sunday 14th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
	3.00 pm	Stanborough Chorus Summer Cream Tea Concert	Malborough Village Hall
Wednesday 17th	9.00 am	Hatha Yoga	Village Hall
	10.30 am	WI Monthly Meeting	Village Hall
	6.30 pm	French Furze meeting	Village Hall
	9.00 pm	World Cup Football matches on the big screen	Village Hall
Friday 19th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Sunday 21st	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
		Beacon deadline for July edition	
Tuesday 23rd	6.00 pm	World Cup Football matches on the big screen	Village Hall
Wednesday 24th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Newton Abbot via Totnes	Bus shelter
	9.00 am	Hatha Yoga	Village Hall
	10.30 am	Chair Yoga	Village Hall
Friday 26th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 27th	6.00 pm	World Cup Football matches on the big screen	Village Hall
Sunday 28th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
	3.00 pm	Teddy Bears' Parachute Jump	Churchyard