



Blackawton Beacon

November 2023

published jointly by the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council

Volunteer needed urgently!

We need someone to organise the distribution of the Beacon and deliver it to outlying places. This takes a few hours towards the end of each month. Cover will be provided if you are away.

We need a volunteer by the end of November if we are to continue distributing the Beacon to every household.

If you might be able to help, or want more information, please email beacon@blackawtoncommunity.com or ring Andrew Morrow on **01803 712242**.



Blackawton Bonfire and Fireworks



Saturday 11th November

Gather at the George Inn from 6.00 pm
Procession to the bonfire field at 6.30 pm

***A brilliant bonfire, fabulous fireworks,
burgers, hot dogs and bar***

There is no admission charge. Please come,
enjoy the display **and donate generously.**



If you would like to help please contact p.hathaway@live.co.uk.

St Michael's Church

Services for November

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>
Thursday 2nd November All Souls Day	7.00 pm	All Souls Service (United Benefice) <i>at St Peter's, Stoke Fleming</i>
Sunday 5th November	11.00 am	Baptism of Molly Hutchings
Sunday 12th November Remembrance Sunday	10.50 am	Service of Remembrance <i>at the War Memorial</i>
Sunday 19th November	11.00 am	Holy Communion (by extension)
Sunday 26th November	9.30 am	Breakfast Church

Remembrance Sunday Car Parking

Please leave the road by the War Memorial clear on the morning of Sunday 12th November for the Service of Remembrance. Thank you.

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**.

From the registers

Saturday 30th September Funeral of Sue Charman

Tuesday 10th October Funeral of Bill Beer

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

The Community Library is inside the Church, usually open during the day.

Autumn Supper

You will be very welcome at our Autumn Supper at 7.00 pm on **Saturday 18th November** at **Melrose Cottage**, (thank you Charlotte and Tony). Come and enjoy a home-cooked meal for £10 (minimum!). If possible, book with Kate Janman **kate.janman@gmail.com**.

Reader's corner

from **Peter Barker**

Several visitors whom I chanced to meet over the summer commented on what a lovely place we live in. And indeed we do! It's not just the outstanding natural beauty of the area, which we continue to enjoy long after the visitors have gone home. It's also a lovely place in which to live because of the efforts of so many here who go out of their way to make a real difference. Genuine concern and helpfulness, opportunities made available by volunteers giving their time and skill, people greeted and their step lightened by a ready smile and a cheerful word.

November is a month for remembering. In particular we remember the sacrifice made by so many not only for their contemporaries, but also for generations to come including ourselves. Collectively, as well as individually, they made a difference, and we are still indebted to them. How would we like to be remembered? Surely as people who made a difference, a difference for good in our own family and community. That our lives should make a difference, a difference for good – that's an aspiration in which we can all share, young and old, whether we live in the public eye or in a quiet corner. It's not just the leaders and activists who can hope to make a difference. We all, by the sort of people we are, impact the lives and well-being of those around us. Often we may never know just what a difference some of the little things we said or did made for their recipients.

St Paul offers a list of lovely qualities which are nurtured and developed by God's indwelling Holy Spirit. 'Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control.' It's worth

appraising ourselves against this list of qualities (or getting an honest friend to do so for us?!): perhaps we score quite highly on some? Whereas others are only, well, shall we say 'a work in progress'? But lives fully characterized by all these qualities would make a wonderful difference, wouldn't they? And what about a whole community? Now there's a thought! If the newspapers ever got to hear of it, even Blackawton might be knocked off top spot in the '10 best places to live' list. Unless of course Blackawton itself was the community characterized by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control!

May God bless you all as you seek to 'make a difference'.

Our church team

Churchwardens Kate Janman 01803 712362
Chris Janman 01803 712362

Lay Readers Frank Robinson 01803 712249
Lyn Robinson 01803 712249

Village Life

Blackawton Christmas Choir

Starting 30th October 2023
Every Monday 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm

Orchard House, Vicarage Road
(Alice Swan's front room!)

A very relaxed choir to bring a bit of Christmas singing joy. Conducted by Tiggy.
Adults of all ages and abilities welcome. Singing a mix of carols and modern.

£20 all in.

Last session (18th December) will be carol singing round the village.

Scott's Open Mic Night is back!

Saturday 25th of November from 8.00 pm

Are you a musician, comedian, poet or entertainer? If so, would you be interested in sharing your talents with our village? Please come down to **The George Inn** on Saturday 25th November from 8.00 pm.

This event is getting bigger and more popular every time. Why not come along and support what great talent we have in our village. There's already a list of entertainers wanting to share their passion and skills. Sounds like a good night out already!

Please contact Scott, scottyrocks@hotmail.co.uk, with any enquires.

Blackawton WI

from **Sandra Tope**

This month's meeting was an all day craft affair, held again at The Sportsmans Arms, due to the hall being out of action. The morning was spent making pewter picture frames or coasters, which every one agreed was very enjoyable. We all went home with something we could use for years to come. After lunch, we were making Christmas decorations, with everyone's efforts being rewarded with a lovely bauble to hang on the tree. Out thanks go to the ladies who tutored us. We had our usual competitions, and the Bloom Of the Month was won by Frances Wood, and the decorated Christmas Card won by Sandra Tope.

This month has been quite busy for members, with several going on a Devon WI organized coach holiday to Snowdonia. Whilst there they visited a stately home and had a trip up mountain or two, and did lots of sightseeing in the area. For those members who remained in Devon, some of us went on a river trip from Dartmouth to Totnes on the Cardiff Castle. We listened to a very amusing commentary, and saw lots of wildlife (seals, ducks, geese cormorants) although sadly no kingfishers this time. The weather was perfect, and we all enjoyed a cup of tea on the Embankment upon our return.

A walk to Start Point lighthouse started with a picnic, and then on the walk back up from the lighthouse, we were treated to a display of the natural world, with some dolphins playing and catching fish in the bay along with lots of sea birds diving for food too. Stunning to see, we were very lucky. Other activities this month included a visit to an Alpaca farm on Dartmoor, and a bellringing demonstration at Buckfast Abbey, and then having a go at ringing the bells at the ruined church up the road. Although a fire gutted the church in 1992, the steeple and bells were largely undamaged, and so remain.

Our next meeting will be held on **November 15** at 10.30 am, again at **The Sportsmans Arms**. Our speaker is Elizabeth Hulme, with a talk entitled 'My Life in the Law'. The competition is for a Trio of Iced Buns, as well as the Bloom of course. Everyone is welcome, so if you fancy seeing what we get up to, and making some new friends, please do come along. For more information, please ring Sue **01803 712145** or Sandra **01803 712622**.

Wormcharming

from **Chris Oughton**

Blackawton Festival of Wormcharming wants you!

It's that time of year when we begin planning our annual village event – the world famous Blackawton International Festival of Wormcharming. We are looking for help with the planning and organisation, and on the weekend itself.

We meet monthly to start planning, beginning **Wednesday 1st November** at 7.30 pm in **The George Inn**. If you might be able to help, come along and say hello, or contact **chris.oughton@yahoo.co.uk**.

Shoeboxes for Children in Need

from **Rachel Moss**

**Pack a shoebox full of gifts to bring joy, love and hope
to children in need around the world**

If you want to know more call Rachel on **07840 704567**, or go to **Samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ**. I have leaflets with more information.

I will be in Blackawton Village Hall car park on **Friday 17th November** from 2.30 pm - 3.45 pm, for you to give me your boxes. Then I will deliver them altogether to the collection point. If not convenient please get in touch with me.

Hedges

from **Bob Harvey**, Tree Warden

FREE hedge leaflets, devised by children at Blackawton School, are in the village shop, but there are two actual examples of good and poor hedge management worth a glance to your left as you drive from Blackawton to Totnes Cross.

From Hutterleigh Turn, the hedge bank on the left is scalped; tidy as suburbia. Carbon absorption is negligible, ecological habitat virtually zero. Cutting costs about £15 every year.

From the old lane down to Wood Farm to the first metal gate, the hedge on the left has been left to grow upwards for 12 years, but necessarily flailed on the road side every year. Copious carbon absorption, maximum wildlife habitat, and seventeen young oak trees growing up without help.

Cutting costs about £5 each year and after 20 years this hedge can be harvested for firewood and sold at a profit of about £400. Furthermore, the Government pays £9 a year for NOT cutting it. So over 20 years the flailed hedge COSTS the owner £300, whereas the growing hedge PAYS the owner over £500. Costings are from a dairy farmer in Devon already practising this system.

Blackawton Nursery

from **Helen Perry**



Stay and Play

Tuesday mornings from 9.30 to 11.00 am
Nursery Hut at Blackawton School
Playing / Arts & Crafts / Making Friends



A session of fun and educational activities for you and your child(ren). Led by Jo Mitchell, our Nursery Leader. Refreshments provided for children and adults (£1 donation).

Energise your Home for the Future

from Ruth Coe

Solar Panels, Heat Pumps and Insulation Kingsbridge Area Sustainability and Climate Action

Save the date: **18th November 2023**

Time Slot	Harbour House	Care Hub
10:00 – 10:15	Opening/welcome by Mayor	
10.30 - 11.15	Presentation by Solar PV Co + Q&A	4 x Stands/Tables by SDCE and householders own projects/experiences
11.30 - 12.15	Presentation by Heat Pump Co + Q&A	
13.30 - 14.15	Presentation by Solar PV Co + Q&A (Repeat)	4 x Stands/Tables by SDCE and householders own projects/experiences
14.30 - 15.15	Presentation by Heat Pump Co + Q&A (Repeat)	
15.30 - 15.45	Big thankyou to all participants	

Notes:

Presentations will be approx. half hour with 15 mins for questions, same in pm as in am.

Mole Energy re PV and AN Other re ASHP (morning and afternoon).

SDCE all day plus 3 x residents am and same or different 3 x residents pm at Care Hub.

PLUS possible other supplier stall(s) on Market Square (Farmers Market Day).

Sustainable Blackawton

from Ruth Coe

Water quality and river health

We attended a training session hosted by Westcountry Rivers Trust and South Devon River Champions. This introduction to the Citizen Science Investigation into the health and water quality of our water bodies was extremely well managed and attended by people from several of the rivers in South Devon.

Our plan is to agree several sampling points along the Gara. Volunteers are needed to take regular water samples, at least once a month, and occasionally extra samples following extreme weather such as droughts and storms or incidents of pollution from agricultural runoff or sewage spills. It would also be helpful if users of the river, dog walkers and nature lovers etc., would report any problems they see, unusual foam or pollution, bank erosion, and such like. Training in the correct use of sampling kits is provided, and data collected will form useful information for the Environment Agency to hold SWWater to account.

The health of our waterways has become a serious cause for concern, and this CSI will assist in enabling the EA to improve their monitoring of various pollution incidents, even though their funding has been drastically reduced over recent years. If you would like to be part of this initiative do please respond to **habitatmapping882@gmail.com**.

Community composting

Following an informative and interesting visit to Ash Meadow, the Ashprington scheme, we concluded that the site previously considered for a community composting scheme in Blackawton is definitely too small to be viable. More discussions with our Playing Fields Committee may suggest a more suitable site, but this would require more funding to install "hard stand" for occasional vehicle access so that shredding, turning and moving of material is possible. Sorry to have no progress to report, these things always take longer than anticipated!

Community Energy

The Energy Local Club (ELC), recently set up by Totnes Renewable Energy Society (TRESOC), is soon to add hydro power to the locally generated solar power. The generators are paid, and the local consumers pay for, a unit electricity price which is beneficial to both.

Blackawton has little opportunity for hydro power but situated on a south facing slope there are buildings within the village with ample roof space for solar power generation, eg. recently built employment units, our primary school, St. Michaels church and many residential properties. Our village hall has benefited financially from the installation of solar pv roof panels in 2010 and would qualify as a generator for a new,

future energy local club in Blackawton. We also have extremely good wind resource above the village, though any suggestion of onshore wind turbines would need considerable support from the local community, and funding through many sources such as grants, private and public investment.

Sustainable Blackawton would like to see local debate and discussion about community energy, the views of local residents are crucial in any attempt to implement future possibilities, however far in the future that may be. It is also worth noting that South Hams District Council include in their report on achieving net zero they intend to "enable our communities to play their part in working towards net-zero. Community-led projects will be able to bid for funding to implement projects that will contribute to a net-zero South Hams; explore renewable energy opportunities across the District; deliver £300,000 funding for community projects; adopt an electric Vehicle Charging Strategy".

The next meeting of the Sustainable Blackawton Group will take place at 7.30 pm on **Tuesday 14th November** in the narthex at **Blackawton Church**. You can contact **dougasnoble@icloud.com** if you have questions in advance. **Everyone welcome.**



Advance Notice **“Sleeping Beauty”** **in the Village Hall**

on Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd February 2024

Auditions have been held, the show has been cast (mostly) – all we need now is lots of rehearsals! If you'd like to be involved but were unable to attend the auditions, we still need some performers, especially children, and we can always use more musicians in the band, and more workers back-stage.

If that's you, please contact: Kate Janman **kate.janman@gmail.com 01803 712362.**

Mobile Library

from **Heidi McCoy**, Libraries Unlimited

Libraries Unlimited operates a mobile library service which brings books for you to borrow to the village every 4 weeks. The new mobile library van makes 80 stops around the South Hams and West Devon each week, joining the four others in the Libraries Unlimited fleet. Mobile libraries were always important, but the pandemic has shown how vital a connection they are to so many people.

The next visit to Blackawton will be on **Tuesday 21st November** at 11.55 am, at the bus shelter.

For further information and full contact details please visit our web page **librariesunlimited.org.uk**.

West Dart Community Bus



The bus is **available for hire** to local community groups and residents for only £55 + fuel. Maybe there are other events people in Blackawton would like to attend. Let us know in advance and we will try to organise a bus service. How about the Dittisham and Dartmouth Regattas and the Kingsbridge Show? Call Claudia Benzies on **07712 210300** or Dave Hawkes **07803 017521**.

Regular services

Journeys are free (and donations welcome). Sit back, enjoy the views, save on fuel, parking & frayed nerves. Please book to ensure the bus does come for you; call **01752 690444** or email **info@ringandride.net**.

Where possible, passengers can be picked up/dropped off elsewhere on the route by request. (eg. outlying hamlets, Totnes, Paignton, Torbay Hospital, Newton Abbot Hospital, Newton Abbot Station)

Timetable for November:

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

All trips depart from Blackawton Village Hall at 9.25 am, Blackawton Bus Shelter at 9.30 am. Return trips depart at 12.30 pm and arrive in Blackawton about 1.00 pm.

Village Hall

Horticultural Show Trophies

The trophies have been engraved and are ready for collection at 9 Higher Island, please phone first to make sure that I'm in **07890 392444**.

Roof Repairs

The Village Hall is likely to remain closed for the rest of 2023, bookings from January can be made as normal. The Village Hall committee apologise for any inconvenience that the prolonged closure causes.

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.

Work on the Village Hall roof is now underway and as a result all the hall furniture is in storage and not available for loan. The Village Hall Committee apologises for any inconvenience that this may cause.

Booking the Village Hall

As noted above, the hall is closed for the rest of 2023. You can make bookings for January onwards.

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; the address is **blackawtoncommunity.com/community-page/blackawton-village-hall**. This page also gives an overview of our facilities as well as a link to the Conditions of Hire. All bookings require a security deposit.

If you don't have internet access, please phone **07890 392444**.

Community Shop

from **Kate Purver**

Shop telephone: **01803 712157**. Email: blackawtonshop@gmail.com.

Shop 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



Fireworks Fun! On 11th November, Fireworks night, the shop will be **open 5 - 7 pm**. Alongside the customary fare we will be providing hot vegetarian chilli wraps –proceeds to go to the fireworks funds.

Further ahead: it's on the horizon! – the shop is now stocked with Christmas cards and advent calendars. Gift bags, wrapping etc to follow, as well as seasonal veg bags from Red Hill Market Garden – watch this space.

And tickets for our **Christmas raffle** will be on sale from November – with lots of prizes including hampers, gift vouchers, wines and chocolates. **Get your tickets!** Proceeds will go to our local schools: Blackawton Primary and Dartmouth Academy.

Meanwhile, our raffle of a hand-made water vole sculpture, kindly donated by Imogen, raised £103 in aid of the River Gara water vole reintroduction project.

Wine of the Month

Los Pastos Merlot, Chile

£7.50 per bottle

This red is ideal for casual drinking: soft and fruity, with plenty of succulent berry and damson flavours, and a hint of cinnamon. Serve at cool room temperature on its own, or enjoy with poultry, red meats and mature hard cheeses. Suitable for vegans.



Are there any more **potential shop volunteers** out there?? Over the next couple of months we have big gaps in our rota due to volunteers being away or indisposed. So it would be really useful to have a few more people - whether you'd be happy to do regular shifts, or just to cover from time to time. (If you've volunteered in the past, would you consider coming back for a bit to help out?) Do come and chat to us in the shop, or drop us an email. No experience necessary!

Following our recent AGM two new members have joined the committee, which is fantastic, and we have some new shareholders – it's great to have more supporters on board. The AGM saw some new faces (also great) and it seems worth giving the briefest of recaps, for anyone unfamiliar with the shop setup: we're a community benefit organisation, owned by the community through our members (shareholders); anyone can become a member (currently we have 83). The committee employs two part-time staff, Helen & Kaede, to run the shop, but it's largely staffed by volunteers. In recent years we've made a small profit. Part of any profit may go into reserves – for historical reasons the shop has a reasonable reserve "cushion" – otherwise profits must be reinvested in the shop or put into community projects.

Parish Council

The Thoughts of Chairman Rake

from **Simon Rake**

A question of value

In a very mild way it seems that the Parish Council put a small cat amongst the hornets and stirred up the pigeons' nest last month by inviting your responses to a survey on possibly applying to register The George Inn as an Asset of Community Value. The volume of responses to the survey seems to have broken all recent records (in the good way; there have been lots) and whilst I can't claim to have been deluged with questions about this, I have had a few, so I thought it might be worth clarifying what is going on.

To begin at the beginning: the notions of Assets of Community Value and the Community Right to Bid were created by the 2011 Localism Act – one of many examples of the temptation to turn political slogans and catchphrases into law (the culprit in this case being 'the Big Society' – remember that?). The intention of the Act (Part 5 Chapter 3 if you're interested) was to "give communities the opportunity to take control of assets and facilities in their neighbourhoods". This was to be achieved by creating the right to bid for certain assets and allowing the time to prepare a bid. In other words, it provides communities with a sort of insurance policy against a cherished local asset being sold out from under them when, if they had had more time, they could have and would have made an offer to take ownership.

The process is relatively simple (bear with me): a community group (including but not limited to the Parish Council) can nominate assets to be included by the District Council on their list of community assets. The District Council then has eight weeks to decide whether to list the asset (for a period of five years) or reject the nomination. "Aha!" I hear those of you who are still awake saying, "but what happens then?" Good question, and well done for still being awake. The answer might be "nothing"; or it could be "quite a lot".

"Nothing" unless the now-listed asset is put up for sale. In other words, if the asset has not been put up for sale in the five years following its listing then the asset falls off the list, and the community can decide whether it wants to repeat the process. Oh, and just to be extra clear, we are talking here about sale of the freehold or of a lease of more than 25 years. "Quite a lot" if the asset is put up for sale within the five-year period. In this case a community group would have six weeks in which to express an interest in bidding for the asset; if it does, there is then a six-month moratorium period – during which the asset may not be sold – to give it time to prepare its offer. At the end of this period, the owner may sell the asset to whoever they choose, and at whatever price they choose. In other words, the community bid might not succeed. Oh, and just for added fun and games, there is nothing to stop two or more 'rival' community groups from bidding!

Simple as that! When it comes to The George Inn, we are still at the stage of gathering evidence for an application for a listing. If there is, and it is approved, then the only thing that will change is that we will know that if The George Inn comes up for sale in the next five years, the community will have a chance to express an interest in bidding (6 weeks) and then make a bid (6 months). But to be clear, this is something that the Parish Council has been mulling for a while. It is not a response to any event or circumstance. The current survey is just seeking to establish if we should take out the "insurance policy".

Blackawton Parish Council meeting

from **Annette Thom**, Parish Clerk

Notes of the Meetings of Blackawton Parish Council held on Tuesday 3rd October 2023 at 7.30 pm in Blackawton Village Hall. Complete minutes can be read at www.blackawtoncommunity.com or the parish noticeboard.

Open Forum

DCC's Cutting of Vicarage Road Verges. A member of the public said that DCC has recently cut the grassy verges on Vicarage Road. They are willing to maintain the verges and DCC does not need to do so.

French Furze Update. Vistry has started to resolve drainage under the MUGA. It is currently responsible for the playground.

Present: Parish & South Hams District Cllr Rake (Chair), Parish Cllrs Oughton (Vice-Chair), Coe, Hadow, Mardon, and Thomas were present, as was Devon County Cllr Brazil (for his report), A Thom (Clerk), and two members of the public.

Report from South Hams District Council Councillor

Cllr Rake reported that at a local level SHDC is trying to fund the rebuilding of the Village Hall: just under £50,000 from French Furze s.106 funds. Meeting SHDC's requirement to show that value is being obtained is difficult due to the large amount of volunteer labour.

SHDC's Strategic Plan is out for consultation. It includes better located, designed, and priced affordable housing. Climate and biodiversity issues are the other main thing. The delivery plan will follow. The updated SHDC website goes live tomorrow. SHDC has acquired seven houses in Sherford under a government scheme for acute social housing need. The housing was under budget – SHDC bought eight and has bid for funding in next round. Waste containers have been distributed. There are 8,000 to distribute and they need to be out by end of this month.

Cllr Thomas asked about parking at the new Health and Wellbeing Centre. There is a part of the road adjacent to the eight free one hour slots which looks a space and the disabled bay is a distance from the meter. Cllr Thomas will describe the issues directly to the relevant SHDC Officer.

Report from Devon County Council Councillor

DCC is still struggling. It has a new Chief Executive. DCC is in consultation with SHDC about a council tax reduction for carers. The Special Education Needs debt will be £160 million by end of the financial year. The deadline to resolve the problem is March 2026. The debt will be bigger than the realisable assets. There is a Slapton Line meeting on 20 October, including the economic assessment consultancy's report. DCC will produce a new plan for planning permission. There will be some road closures: in Stoke Fleming in January, February, March, and in East Charleton for three weeks in November. The meeting asked about a nighttime closure of the A3122 near Dartmouth which will be looked into.

Planning Applications

SHDC Planning Decisions

2204/23/PDM Land At SX 801 505 Blackawton. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural buildings/barns to 1No dwellinghouse (class C3) & for associated development (Class Q (a+b)). **Prior Approval Refused.**

2649/23/PDM Land At SX 806 495 Blackawton. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural buildings/barns to 1No dwellinghouse (class C3) & for associated development (Class Q (a+b)). **Prior Approval Refused.**

Review of New Applications

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

Consultations

SHDC, Draft Corporate Strategy. Closes Monday 23 October.

Legal Advice regarding Responsibility for the Maintenance of St Michael's churchyard

BPC considered its response to the legal advice received that BPC does not have legal responsibility for maintenance of the closed churchyard. It was resolved unanimously to endeavour to arrange a meeting with the PCC Chair to endeavour to regularise the current arrangements.

Phone Box Restoration

Cllr Thomas provided a verbal report. More information is needed about the options available. This will be an item on the next BPC Agenda.

Dead Ash Tree in Blackawton Cemetery

The proposal to retain the tree, remove its lowest branches, and grow plants up it, to support biodiversity, was considered. It was agreed that the Clerk would take advice on the safety of the proposal and in the interim Cllr Rake will remove the broader low branches with a hand-saw, with the Clerk.

Finance

Update on Current Financial Position. The Reports showed total funds of £61,539.73 and unearmarked general fund of £17,847.84, and the bank accounts reconciled.

Payments authorised:

Clerk, Expenses reimbursement, includes hedgecutting safety signs £159.86

Receipts noted:

Precept, second instalment £9,500.00

Interment and EROB, Lawn cemetery £250.00

Interment and EROB, Cremation area £120.00

Interment & additional inscription, Lawn cemetery £330.00

Overtime Claim

The Clerk's claim for ten hours overtime from July to September was approved.

Correspondence

- A Mangall MP, Invitation Open Meeting SWW, Dartmouth, 19/10/23, 17:30.
- 18/9/23, DCC regarding local flooding. Responded regarding local incidents.
- Electrical Safety Fund grants scheme for local projects, closes 22 October 2023.
- Farming Community Network, request for support & information services available.
- 22/9/23, to DCC, BPC Support for the 20s Plenty For Us Campaign.
- 19/9/23, Householder request for Parish lengthsman support, passed on to Lengthsman.
- 18/9/23, Consultant, Inclusion in A379 Slapton Line Economic Impact Assessment by SHDC.

Grounds Maintenance Contract

The meeting was closed to members of the public while the contract was discussed. It was agreed that the contract is coming up for renewal and BPC needs to decide what to do.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 7th November 2023** at 7.30 pm. The venue is to be confirmed. 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 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 Cumberlandidge	07773 691260	

Other contacts

South Hams Cllr Simon Rake	01803 861129	Cllr.Simon.Rake@southhams.gov.uk
South Hams District Council	01803 861234	customer.services@southhams.gov.uk
SHDC emergency out of hours	01803 867034	
Devon County Cllr Julian Brazil	01548 511109	julian.brazil@devon.gov.uk
	07970 971140	
Devon County Council	0845 155 1015	customer@devon.gov.uk
	0345 155 1015	

Police non-urgent reporting

101

or online form at www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/your-area/teams/Dartmouth/Contact

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

the Wider Community

The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming & District

from Peter Hales

Where friendliness matters above all else.

The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming and District has been in existence since 1984. We meet fortnightly on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The meetings start at 10.30 am with coffee followed by

a speaker at 11.00 am and on the first meeting of the month we also have lunch at 12.30 pm.

Please call Peter Hales on **01803 770739** or email **peterhales21@gmail.com** for more information and to arrange to be welcomed to a trial meeting.

Our meetings in November are:

Wednesday 8th lunch Life as an Airline Pilot: Stewart Lenton

Wednesday 22nd ladies lunch & quiz Christmas Photoquiz: Robert Hesketh

The Armed Man, a Mass for Peace ~ Karl Jenkins

and other works

Stanborough Chorus & Orchestra

Conductor: Christopher Fletcher

with the Choir of Torquay Girls' Grammar School

Sunday 12th November at 7.30 pm

St Edmund's Church, Kingsbridge

Tickets £18 (under 16s free) from Kingsbridge Information Centre and choir members or

Claudia Benzie **07712 210300**.

www.stanboroughchorus.com

CHSW Christmas Fair

from Sue Tweed

Advance Notice!

The Old Market in Dartmouth is the place to be from 10 am to 3 pm on

Saturday 2nd December

for a Christmas Fair in aid of **Children's Hospice South West**. Lots of stalls selling all sorts of desirables, including cards, crafts, art, alpaca wear, jewellery, driftwood gifts, books, cakes, candles and more, plus Dartmouth Rock singing **Christmas Carols** and a **raffle** with very impressive prizes! All stalls are now booked.

Details from Sue on **07955 197721** or email **tweed833@btinternet.com**.

from the Editor

Please send your Beacon contributions by email to **beacon@blackawtoncommunity.com**. Contributions on paper can be posted to or dropped off at 1 The Cross, Park Lane, Blackawton, TQ9 7BD.

The deadline for the December edition is **Tuesday 21st November**.

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

Advertisements

RGC mobility

KITCHENS & BATHROOMS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Wet Rooms • Walk-in Baths • Wash & Dry Toilets • Seated Showering

Level Access • Grab Rails • Raised Toilets • Adapted Taps

Accessible Ovens • Rise & Fall Hobs Worktops & Cupboards

Collingwood Road Dartmouth TQ6 9JY 01803 834622 rgcbuildingsupplies.co.uk

stanborough poultry



TURKEYS ~ GEESE
DUCKS ~ CHICKEN



Contact us to order your free-range
oven-ready Christmas bird:

Give us a call or send us a message on:
01548 821306 or 07398 901768
email: **stanboroughfarm@hotmail.com**



****Veg Boxes are also available to order and collect
with your bird, from our pop-up farm shop****



Find and follow us on Social Media

Facebook: Stanborough Farm Poultry and Firewood

Instagram: stanboroughpoultry



CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE!

Blackawton-grown Nordmann and Fraser firs

Competitive prices

*We can deliver or
you can come and choose your own!*

Contact Adam Gaisford **07760 309232**

EZEBAG

**You Fill it Up
We Pick it Up**

The Easier
Way to
Clear Away
Your Rubbish



From £135

Including bag delivery & collection

ezebag.co.uk 01803 834622

HOUSEHOLD • GARDEN • DIY • GENERAL BUILDING



Helen Reeve

Stanborough Farm B & B

Halwell

Totnes

TQ9 7JQ

01548 821306/07807 787327

stanboroughfarm@hotmail.com

Open all year round

If you have friends or relations staying here why not join them for breakfast or an evening meal at the farm.

J.D BOOKKEEPING

XERO TRAINING
FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

BOOKKEEPING

VAT RETURNS

**CASH FLOW
FORECASTING**

josie@jdbookkeeping.co.uk

www.jdbookkeeping.co.uk



AAT Licensed
Bookkeeper



XERO ADVISOR
CERTIFIED



Xero payroll
certified

health:hub

End Back Pain & Stiffness

**WITHOUT Taking Painkillers
Or Seeing The GP**

Back pain is the **most common problem** we see
in the clinic..... and it's gardening time!

We have many ways to help those with back pain.
No matter how long you've suffered, there is STILL
something that can be done.

Find out we can help you with our **FREE TASTER SESSION**
or request our **FREE** back pain report,
"12 Steps To Eliminate Back Pain And Stay Pain Free"
Call us and quote "parish magazine Spring 2022"

www.healthhub-kingsbridge.co.uk 01548852355

Physio Massage Pilates Fitness Exercise

The Ex-Dairy Farmer



**OVEN READY
SLOW MATURING, FREE RANGE
Chickens & Ducks**
now available all year round

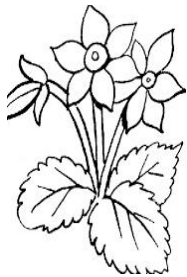
Discounts for larger orders
Sausages usually available

Text/Telephone

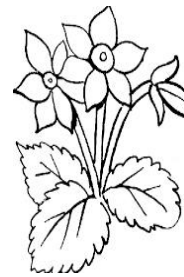
ROB 07929160071

stanboroughfarm@hotmail.com

*Great for a family Sunday roast
and topping up the deep-freeze*



Available for pre-order now!
Blackawton Blooms
***Sustainable Christmas Wreaths
and Gift Bouquets***



Sumptuous, luxurious, sustainable, Christmas wreaths, made the traditional way on a moss base are available for pre-order now! They are very long lasting and should last a month (if care instructions are followed). Please see photos on the Blackawton Blooms Facebook page or an example in the shop from early November. £58.50 without lights, £65 with lights. Wreaths can be collected from Blackawton, delivered locally or posted **anywhere in the country** (postage £12). Sensational, sustainable hand-tied bouquets are also available for local delivery in the South Hams. I can also post them anywhere in the country, so everyone can have a little bit of Devon sent to their door 😊.

***Bouquets for local delivery start at £30 plus delivery charges.
Postal flowers start at £35, with next day delivery by Parcelforce £12.***

Hand-tied bouquets are tastefully wrapped in brown paper and raffia and postal flowers are packaged in recycled and recyclable packaging. All flowers come with flower food and a beautiful card.

My flowers have a minimal carbon footprint, are grown organically without pesticides or artificial fertilisers, they are peat-free, plastic-free and grown in harmony with nature here in Devon and are a zero air mile product. From March to October my flowers are grown in Blackawton. From November to March I buy in from other Devon, SW and British growers (so they are also zero air miles). All of this and long-lasting to boot.

Bouquets are available for pre-order for Christmas or at any time!

Email Jane at info@blackawtonblooms.co.uk
or call/message me on **07951 296494**.

Check out my FB page www.facebook.com/blackawtonblooms or visit
www.blackawtonblooms.co.uk for photos of bouquets and wreaths.



Looking for qualified tree
surgeons and foresters?
Then look no further!

Knowle Tree Services are one of Devon's leading Tree Surgery and Forestry companies. Our head office is based in Totnes covering all of Devon.

All aspects of tree surgery, forestry and woodland work undertaken

Log deliveries

Hedge cutting

Free estimates

Fully insured

Contact: **07711 828184 / 01803 813286**

www.knowletreeservices.co.uk



Mason Accountancy

Small Business Accountants

Mason Accountancy specialises in providing personal accounting services to individuals, sole traders, partnerships and small local businesses. We can take care of all your tax and statutory reporting obligations, so that you have time to concentrate on your business.

Friendly & Professional Accounting

Get in touch at: anne-marie@masonaccountancy.com

07733 334797, www.masonaccountancy.com

Parish Diary

November 2023

Wednesday 1st	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to The Willows via Totnes	Bus shelter
	7.30 pm	Wormcharming planning meeting	The George Inn
Friday 3rd	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Monday 6th	7.30 pm	Blackawton Christmas Choir	Orchard House
Tuesday 7th	7.30 pm	Blackawton Parish Council meeting	Village Hall or Church
Friday 10th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 11th	6.00 pm	Blackawton Fireworks	The George Inn
Sunday 12th	7.30 pm	Stanborough Chorus & Orchestra concert	St Edmund's Church, Kingsbridge
Monday 13th	7.30 pm	Blackawton Christmas Choir	Orchard House
Tuesday 14th	7.30 pm	Sustainable Blackawton Group meeting	Church
Wednesday 15th	10.30 am	Blackawton WI meeting	Sportsmans Arms
Friday 17th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
	2.30 pm	Shoeboxes for Children in Need collection	Village Hall car park
Saturday 18th	10.00	Kingsbridge Area Sustainability and Climate Action	Harbour House, Kingsbridge
	7.00 pm	Church Autumn Supper	Melrose Cottage
Monday 20th	7.30 pm	Blackawton Christmas Choir	Orchard House
Tuesday 21st	11.55 am	Mobile library	Bus shelter
		Deadline for December Beacon	
Friday 24th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 25th	8.00 pm	Scott's Open Mic Night	The George Inn
Monday 27th	7.30 pm	Blackawton Christmas Choir	Orchard House
Wednesday 29th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Newton Abbot via Totnes	Bus shelter

December 2023

Saturday 2nd	10.00 am	CHSW Christmas Fair	The Old Market, Dartmouth
--------------	----------	---------------------	---------------------------