Blackawton Beacon November 2026

published jointly by the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council

Blackawton Bonfire and Fireworks



Saturday 7th November

A brilliant bonfire, fabulous fireworks!

The barrel will be lit at the George Inn at 6.30 pm, then process to the bonfire field.



Limited drinks available outside the George and in the field.
Burgers and veggie options in the field. ALL CASH ONLY.

No sparklers, please.

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**.

The Cube

Freedom • Fun • Funk

Saturday 21st November

Blackawton Village Hall

DJ Ren Lisa B DJ Sophiesea Diamond Lil

• 4 hours of Nu Disco music • 6 pm - 10 pm • Bar • 4 DJs
• Over 18s only (or 16+ with an adult) • Dress code = Sparkles

Tickets £5 in aid of 'Save Our Pub'
Buy from Blackawton Village Shop, or on the door, cash only
Buy online (£1 booking fee) at: buytickets.at/thecube/2455043

Village Hall AGM

Monday 2nd November 7.00 pm

Come along to hear our plans for future enhancements to our hall, suggest new activities, or even volunteer to join the management committee.

FOBS (Friends of Blackawton School) from **Fern Eden**



CURRY & QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 13th November

Blackawton Village Hall

Bar open 6.30 pm ~ Quiz starts 7.30 pm

*Our quizmaster is **Dave Simmonds**, the evil queen from last years village panto!*

Curry from **The Cellar Door**. Vegetarian option available - please request upon booking. If you've not eaten Dan & Charlie's incredible food before, you're in for a treat!

Open to all grown ups. Tickets from the Community Shop, or scan the QR Code.

Raising funds for Blackawton School

Blackawton Christmas Choir

9th November onwards

Every Monday 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm
except 9th November which will be from 6.30 - 7.30 pm

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

A very relaxed choir to bring a bit of Christmas singing joy

Adults of all ages and abilities welcome. Singing a mix of carols and modern.
£20 all in. Conducted by **Sue Hadow**.

Ending with carol singing round the village, exact date t.b.c.

St Michael's Church

Services for November

Date	*Time*	*Service*
Sunday 1st All Saints' Day	9.30 am	Holy Communion (by extension)
Tuesday 3rd	9.00 am	Connect! *(every Tuesday during term-time)*
Sunday 8th Remembrance Day	10.50 am	Service of Remembrance *at the War Memorial*
Sunday 15th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd Christ the King	9.30 am 4.00 pm	Morning Worship THE 4!
Sunday 29th Advent Sunday	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion *at St Peter's, Stoke Fleming* Advent Carol Service *(United Benefit services)*

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.**

There will be a **PCC Meeting** on **Wednesday 4th November** at 7.30 pm.

The **Autumn Supper** will be on **Saturday 14th November** at 7.00 pm at Figtree. The cost is £10 (minimum) per person, **all welcome**; please let someone know if you wish to attend.

Reader's Corner

from **Jenny Harris**

Autumn ushers in a season of change. Just as the trees shed their leaves, preparing for the onset of winter, we too can use this time to truly appreciate the transformation that autumn brings. The gentle rustle of leaves beneath our feet and the aroma of the damp earth serve as a reminder of God's ever-changing creation. Each leaf in its transformation from verdant green to fiery red or golden yellow showcases the beauty of transition. Likewise in our lives, seasons of change, whilst sometimes challenging, have the potential to bring beauty and growth.

Autumn provides the perfect backdrop for reflection and prayer. As the days grow shorter and nights grow colder, we're naturally drawn to the warmth of our homes. In the quiet moments this season offers we can seek a closer encounter with God, just as Jesus often retreated to solitary places to pray to his Father.

Autumn presents us with an opportunity to slow down, to find our solitary place, whether it's a quiet room or a gentle walk in the woods. In this season of transition let us embrace the stillness and beauty that autumn brings. In its silent wisdom, it reminds us of the importance of pausing, reflecting and drawing nearer to our creator, God, and to hear his still small voice.

In scripture the Apostle Paul reminded the Ephesian Church to pray at all times and on all occasions. Following this command we can use the changing seasons to remind us to thank God for his gift of our lives. During autumn we all know that winter lies ahead, but when it comes, can spring be far behind?

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 Playing Fields Trust

from **Dan Libby**

The Blackawton Playing Fields Trust is a group of local volunteers from the village and surrounding areas who manage and maintain Blackawton's play park, tennis court and the meadow (secret field). All of these areas, as well as the football pitch and bonfire field, are community-owned and looked after by us.

As you can appreciate, this is a large area to keep on top of, including grass cutting, hedge maintenance, and looking after aging play park equipment. As volunteers, we do our best with any spare time that we have, but it'd always be great to have more people on the team! As well as the maintenance jobs, we meet semi-regularly throughout the year, and our meetings are always very sociable and welcoming to new members.

We're also the ones responsible for the **Blackawton Wassail!** We've run Wassail for two years, with a great turn-out from the village both times. Now, as we work our way through Autumn, we're starting to think about next year's event, which we hope will be as successful again. We run Wassail purely to have fun and give everyone something to look forward to in the dark days of January – any profits go towards looking after the playing field areas.

If you'd like to get involved with the Trust, or if you have any comments or ideas for the playing fields, please feel free to get in touch. Email **playingfields@blackawtoncommunity.com**, or there's a contact number on the play park and meadow gates. Or, if you already know someone on our committee, simply stop us for a chat.

Our next meet-up will be at the play park on the morning of **Sunday 1st November** – we'll be having a bit of a scrub up in preparation for winter and the upcoming fireworks! If anyone would like to join us for that, the more the merrier and any help is greatly appreciated.

Save Our Pub!

from **Steve Thomas, Andy Gimpel and Nic Crane**

Help us save The George Inn

Village Hall meeting and a call to join our team!

Thursday 19th November

Doors open at 6 pm for a 7 pm start (the bar will be open!)

Blackawton Village Hall



The Save Our Pub team will report on the outcome of the feasibility assessment, summarise how the project might move forwards and invite people to join the team.

We are now at a stage where we need more people to join our team and take on key roles in order to move forwards. We need to ensure that our team has the relevant skills required to purchase The George Inn, and set up and manage a successful community owned pub business. Without more volunteers, we cannot continue.

If you have skills, experience or enthusiasm to help in the following areas, send us an email at **georgeinncommunity@gmail.com**:

- Community Benefit Society (CBS) Secretary (for a role description, see our website **www.saveourpubblackawton.co.uk** or contact us).
- CBS Treasurer (for a role description, see our website as above, or contact us).
- Knowledge and experience to cost and oversee remaining required renovation work at the pub.
- Lead our search for a suitable tenant publican to run our community-owned pub.
- Define the community share offer (the process by which local people and supporters invest in the Community Benefit Society to help fund the purchase and running of the village pub) including producing the prospectus, administering the offer and data control.
- A community-facing role to drive the community share offer initiative.
- Develop, document and maintain our policies and procedures.
- Be involved with, and represent the CBS's interest in, any short-term opening of the pub.
- A legal eagle to work with Barchester and lease/sublease development.

Additionally, if you want to help, and have specific skills not listed above that you think we need and are willing to provide, do let us know. If you'd like to know more before committing, please get in touch. We're happy to discuss! Together we can secure a future for The George Inn pub at the heart of our community.

We look forward to hearing from you!

BASH (Blackawton & Strete History Group)

from **Andrea Scott**

We are looking forward to going to Devon Rural Archive at Shilstone near Modbury on **Thursday 5th November**. We are meeting Jackie the archivist at 2.00 pm who will give us an introduction to the extensive rural records held, and will talk about how they can be available for people to see and explore. They have a small simple cafe on site so we are suggesting we meet there at 12.30 pm and have a bite of lunch before we join her. The postcode for Shilstone is PL21 0TW.

Do let us know if you would like to come, so we can give them an idea of numbers; call Jan and Andrea Scott on **01803 712753**. It would be good to see you and it is a really interesting place!

Blackawton WI

from **Sandra Tope**

Our original speaker for October had to cancel due to health issues, so Hannah Roberts stepped in to give us a demonstration of chair yoga. There are a few of us who go to her regular classes in the village hall, and find it really benefits us, as well as being fun. We were grateful to her for filling the gap! Afterwards, she judged the competition (an old treasure) which was won by Shirley Edmonds with a 100 year old teddy bear. There were lots of entries for the Bloom of the month, which was won by Jenny Edmonds with a beautiful yellow rose.

Our November meeting, the last of the year, will be on Wednesday 18th November, 10.30 am in the Village Hall. We will be having a go at making a paper hedgehog, out of old books, demonstrated by Kwerky Krafts. How these will turn out will be interesting, and whether they resemble hedgehogs remains to be seen! The competition is for an animal ornament, as well as the usual Bloom of the Month. Everyone welcome, young or old, old members or new. For more information call Sandra on **01803 712622**, or Sue on **01803 712145**.

Blackawton Community Board Games

from **Paris Everett**

Tuesdays 3rd and 17th November, 6.00 - 9.00 pm

and fortnightly thereafter

Blackawton Village Hall

16 years+ players only

We have some games but need more – **please bring your own!**

For more information email Paris at **stratuj@yahoo.co.uk**

Time Capsule

from **John Yunnie**

Firstly, just to let everyone know I placed a time capsule in the new church wall opposite the shop. It contains a copy of the 2020 photo album on a memory card, a copy of the September Beacon, some coins, a stamp and some seeds, and some other small items.

Secondly, can I ask the person who borrowed the two photo albums from the Church, to please remember to return them! Thank you.

Sustainable Blackawton

from **Ruth Coe**

The next Sustainable Blackawton meeting is on **Tuesday 24th November**, at 6.30 pm at Figtree, Vicarage Road. New members very welcome. Contact **douglasnoble@icloud.com** if you want to find out more.

Food "waste" recycling

Currently residual food is often treated as waste and disposed of in an environmentally damaging way, that is energy hungry, expensive and release harmful greenhouse gases. Food waste is better celebrated as a resource, recycled onsite into nutrient-rich, living compost. It is part of a natural nutrient cycle that, when well-managed, will vastly improve soil health. While some councils have facilities to process food waste, many are overwhelmed so we, as individuals and businesses, should manage our waste in a better way.

Blackawton Primary School, ever resourceful and innovative, has recently installed a system for disposing of food "waste" in an on-site system that produces great compost for their Forest School Garden, enabling more production of vegetables and fruit **free** from pesticide/herbicide chemicals. Thanks to funding from FOBS and the Education SW we have bought a new "hat" for the Ridan composter to eliminate a recent problem with fly infestation. So **"thank you" FOBS**, we really appreciate your support, and Garden Club children are learning a lot about soil and environmental science, as well as food production.

How to Live on Earth

this month's Good News ☺

There is so much worrying news around that a film showing lots of positive outcomes to various actions being taken across the world just has to be broadcast!

Come and see this beautiful, inspiring film at Blackawton Village Hall at 4.00 pm on **Sunday 8th November**. Introduced by Benedict Cumberbatch, presented by experts in a variety of environmental areas, this shows many actions that improve the natural world and fight biodiversity loss, whilst mitigating adverse climate change.

Garden material composting

The community site accepts garden material on **Sunday mornings 10:00 – 12:00 only**.
Please, please do not dump prunings, etc at any other time.

Sustainable Blackawton encourages home composting so we have a few "dalek" type composters for sale at a discounted price. If you would like to buy one of these please call **07845 598658** or contact **ruth@blackawtoncommunity.com**.

Wind Power feasibility project

Thank you to all who responded to the recent survey on local community opinion of Wind Power. The project continues, difficulties in balancing financial viability (funds for community after costs) with grid connection constraints, as well as planning and ecology requirements, are now apparent. These are not insurmountable but will take creativity and good sense to come to terms with.

People's Emergency Briefing film showing

Blackawton Village Hall

Sunday 1st November 2026 at 3.00 pm

Age rating: 16+ ~ Tickets free from: www.tickettailor.com/events/sustainableblackawton/2424015

The film features footage from last November's National Emergency Briefing, which brought together leading UK experts in climate science, food security, health, economics, national security and nature. It presents a clear, measured overview of how the climate and nature crisis is affecting everyday life in Britain, and what the evidence says about risks and responses. The initiative is explicitly non-partisan and is supported by a wide range of organisations including National Trust, Church of England, Exeter University, the Royal Meteorological Society, WWF, National Education Union, and many more.

Following the 50-minute film, we will host a structured discussion about what this means for our community. We would greatly value your presence.

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, donations are very welcome. **You must book 24 hours before your journey**; 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 November:

Wednesday 4th	The Willows, Torquay via Totnes
Friday 6th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 13th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 20th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 27th	Totnes and Newton Abbot (now on the last **Friday** of the month)
Friday 27th	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**.

Greenhouse and bungalow

from **Adrian Kyte**

6' x 4' aluminium greenhouse free for collection from 9 Higher Island. Some of the glass is missing but, hey, its free.

My bungalow, 9 Higher Island, will be on the market soon at £480,000. If you are interested in buying and contact me directly before I sign an estate agents contract the price could be as low as £474,000 because I would not have to pay estate agent's commission. The advantage to you is the lower price, the advantage to me is that I wouldn't have to rush so much getting it ready for sale.

For more details, or to view, contact Adrian Kyte on **07890 392444**.

Treen: of a tree

from **Bob Harvey**

The **Hoppus Foot** was devised in 1736 and still in use for measuring English hardwoods. Buying standing trees for timber is a gamble as the bark and sapwood is useless so has to be allowed for in the price. The usable section is found by passing a string around the bole of the tree, folding it into four, taking three of the four parts, then folding that into four, which gives the square cross section of the usable timber. Multiply this by the length of the bole and you have the amount of usable timber in cubic feet. Easy.

After the Fire of London in 1666 a huge quantity of building timber was needed quickly so the imports of softwood from Baltic forests increased significantly. These were converted into boards and trimmed of bark by saw before shipping to reduce the volume. The square-edged boards were known as deals, so when you bought it you knew exactly how much you were getting for your money - you got a **square deal**.

Village Hall

November events

from **Charlie Moss**

People's Emergency Briefing film	Sunday 1st, 3.00 pm
Fireworks after party	Saturday 7th, 5.00 pm
Film "How to live on earth"	Sunday 8th, 4.00 pm
Parish Council Meeting	Monday 9th, 7.30 - 10.30 pm
Blackawton WI Meeting	Wednesday 18th, 10.30 - 12.30 am
Save our pub community meeting	Thursday 19th, 7.00 pm
"The Cube" Disco	Saturday 21st, 6.00 - 10.00 pm

In aid of Save our Pub. Tickets from shop, or limited number available on the door

French Furze Vistry meeting	Wednesday 25th, 6.30 - 7.00 pm
BADS panto rehearsals	Sundays 15th & 29th, 2.00 - 5.30 pm
Blackawton community board games	Tuesdays 3rd & 17th, 6.00 pm
Hatha Yoga	Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th, 9.15 to 10.15 am
Seated Yoga	Wednesdays 4th, 11th & 25th, 10.30 to 11.30 am

To book yoga classes ring Hannah Roberts 07951 079608.

Community composting every Sunday, 10.00 am - 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 most accurate way to check when this is required is to follow the link on the hall website to the car park calendar. The dates this month are Sunday 1st 3.00 pm onwards, Saturday 7th all day, Sunday 8th 4.00 pm onwards, Sunday 15th & 29th 2.00pm onwards, Saturday 21st all day.

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 cancelation with full refund of any hall fees already paid. All bookings require a security deposit.

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

As the evenings draw in and the weather turns… remember, everything you need for a cosy night in is just down the road! Your village shop is here to save you a soggy trip into town; and every pound spent with us helps keep it open for everyone. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Poppies for Remembrance. Poppies are now available in the shop ahead of Remembrance Sunday on 8th November. Please do pick one up next time you're in.

Stir-up Sunday, 22 November! We know, we know - it's only November - but the Christmas pudding waits for no-one! We'll be fully stocked with everything you need: dried fruit, suet, spices, sugar, flour and, of course, something to feed it with.

Fresh bread, your way. We order fresh bread every day from Hallets and weekly from Hylsten, and you can make sure your favourite loaf is waiting for you. Each Tuesday we send out a WhatsApp message to take Hylsten bread orders, including the things we don't normally stock. If you'd like to be added, just ask in the shop.

Local meat, to order. We stock quality meat from Aune Valley, right here in Devon, and we can also place special orders for you. Whether it's a joint for a family gathering or something a bit different, pop in and we'll arrange it.

Easy dinners for dark evenings. Our freezer is stocked with frozen fish and ready meals, ideal for nights when cooking is the last thing you want to do. You'll also find chilled food, fresh milk and eggs restocked throughout the week.

Looking for something specific? If there's anything you'd like that we don't usually stock, just drop in and ask. We can often order items in, and your suggestions help us make sure the shop has what the village actually wants.

And if you're picking up something to go with dinner, here are this month's recommendations:

Versare Pinot Grigio Rosé, northern Italy – at £7.20, a **bargain** for all you rosé drinkers!
Last bottles, when it's gone it's gone… This light, dry refreshing wine is made from 100% Pinot Grigio grapes. A delightful pale pink, it has notes of strawberry and raspberry and a clean, crisp palate with a smooth fruity finish. A great match for grilled chicken, fish or seafood, or light pasta dishes.

Jack Rabbit Shiraz, Central Valley, Chile – £7.99
A great winter-warmer red, with notes of blackberries, plums and peppery spice. Surprisingly full-bodied, it's perfect for these darker evenings, with soft tannins making it very easy-drinking. Enjoy with pasta, pizza, grilled meats and cheeses.

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**

RED HILL MARKET GARDEN

A cautionary tale

from **Antonia Edwards**

I once lived in a thriving village in Wales where, just like Blackawton, there was a pub, a church and a little post office stores. The shop opened, very much like Blackawton's, seven days a week and had, like Blackawton, a vast range of products as well as the post office.

Sadly, the shop closed, as the locals didn't buy much in the way of produce. So many people were saddened by the loss of somewhere to buy their newspapers and milk…. But therein lay the problem: the shop couldn't survive by just supplying milk and newspapers. The villagers were so inconvenienced by having to get in their cars to drive to the nearest town, when all the time, the local shopkeeper had been warning them that the shop needed their custom.

Here in Blackawton, we are truly blessed to have the wherewithal to buy amazing bread, delicious local produce and all the ingredients for sumptuous dinner parties!! If only that little village in Wales had appreciated the fantastic resource they had on their doorstep!

Blackawton School

from **Vicky Harris**

Curious, Creative and Wild at Blackawton Primary

It's been a wonderfully busy start to the autumn term at Blackawton Primary's Forest School! The children have been exploring nature, discovering pond life, spotting frogs and adding to our ever-growing bug hotel. Autumn has inspired plenty of creativity, with fallen leaves, sticks, clay and recycled materials transformed into imaginative creations. We've also explored fungi, made musical instruments, enjoyed woodland games and talked about how we can all help protect our planet.

Our conversations have inspired our very own **Promise Tree**, where every child has been invited to share a promise to care for the natural world. We're excited to introduce our new **Eco Awareness Committee** — a group of children committed to making a positive difference across our school. Together, we're encouraging everyone to take **pride** in their environment:

P – Protecting wildlife
R – Reduce, reuse and recycle
I – Inspiring others
D – Don't waste energy
E – Everyone making a difference

We'll be launching **Switch Off Fortnight** in November to raise awareness of saving energy by switching off unnecessary lights. We'll also be embarking on the **RHS Plants and Wellbeing Award**, bringing more indoor plants into our classrooms, library and corridors for everyone to nurture and enjoy.

We're also keen to inspire our children about future opportunities in sustainability and the environment. **Do you know someone locally who works in a green career?** If they'd be willing to share their experiences and offer our pupils an insight into their work, please get in touch with the school office.

Can you help? We're looking for logs to enhance our Forest School area, as well as indoor plants that need a new home or potting on. If you have any suitable logs or plants to donate, we'd love to hear from you! Through Forest School and our eco projects, we're helping children explore, get creative and discover how small actions can make a big difference to our planet.

Parish Council

The Thoughts of Chairman Rake

from **Simon Rake**

The end of the beginning

If you are impatient for me to stop filling these pages with witterings about the ins and outs of Local Government Reorganisation, I can only apologise and assure you that I share both your pain and your keen desire that I soon turn my pen back to lighter (who knows, perhaps even more entertaining) fare. There are grounds to hope that this will soon be the case. Just not yet, so let's get this over with shall we?

Although no official announcement has yet been made, the people in the know seem to think that the reorganisation process, as it pertained to Devon, will not recover from the politically-induced coma of 'pause and review'. LGR, in other words, is LG Aren't! I would stress that I am only a person who vaguely knows some of the people who vaguely know the people in the know, so I am pretty likely to be wrong, but the auguries and omens do all seem to be pointing in such a direction. The other reason to keep champagne corks un-popped is that other changes to how local government is run could well start rushing down the track to fill the aching void that the killing off of LGR would leave.

Two areas spring particularly to mind: a Mayor and voluntary changes. A directly-elected Mayor for Devon would have a range of responsibilities such as transport, adult skills, housing and strategic planning, public safety and fire services, economic development and so on. Whilst this adds another layer of local government (bringing the grand total to four) it does have some clear advantages. First, it removes the 'Whitehall haircut', money that the central Civil Service retains for administering funds allocated for services down here in Devon. I have heard figures for the haircut of as much as 35% – a real buzz-cut. If that figure is true, then when government says they are investing £100m in new bus services in Devon, only £65m of that will actually get outside the M25. A Mayor however would receive the whole budget. On top of this, it would mean that these funds would be spent by someone who, hopefully, knows our County well and who can work with local Councils and other bodies much more closely.

Voluntary change is a rather more complicated proposition. LGR may be over, but certain things begin to emerge. One is that the process, particularly in its latter stages, forced all Devon's Councils to work together very closely, first in preparation of their proposals and then in preparation for what appeared to be the final shape of future arrangements. Along the way, they seem to have discovered several things they could do better together — to their own advantage and, rather more importantly, ours. One example would be if District and County Councils were to combine their call-handling services to create a single point of contact and thus eliminate the frustrating and confusing situations where one might call one Council only to be told that the subject of your enquiry is a matter for the other Council. The challenge now is to keep the momentum and turn these opportunities into the real gains that cooperation could offer. If we can do that, and reorganise local government on our own terms to better serve our communities, rather than responding to top-down government diktats, then perhaps it will finally be time to pop the champagne and get that street party going.

Blackawton Parish Council meeting

from **Annette Thom**

Notes of the Monthly Meeting of Blackawton Parish Council held on Monday 12 October 2026 at 7.30 pm in Blackawton Village Hall. Complete minutes can be read at **www.blackawtoncommunity.com** or the parish noticeboard.

Present: BPC and SHDC Cllr Rake, BPC Cllrs Douglas-Ross, Hadow, Luckens, and Thomas were present, as were DCC Cllr Brazil until his report, and Clerk A Thom. There were 31 members of the public present for the Open Forum and one member of the public until Item 7.

Open Forum

Possible Residential Development Scheme in Blackawton. A representative of Acorn Property Group explained the possible development that they are working on. It is around 30 to 35 residences of 2 and 3, and 4 bedrooms on Ruby Field, the land opposite Higher Island. They would be built to the "Future Homes" standard and have an overheating assessment. The presentation was followed by questions. South West Water has said that the sewage processing plant would need to be upgraded prior to their occupation. There were questions about the company structure and the legal entity responsible for the site. Cllr Rake commended the developer for liaising with the community at this early stage, which they don't have to.

Co-option to fill the current vacancy for a Parish Councillor

It was resolved to co-opt the applicant, Claire Douglas-Ross. Cllr Douglas-Ross signed a declaration of acceptance of office and it was witnessed by the Clerk.

Report from Devon County Council Councillor

DCC Cllr Brazil acknowledged BPC's enquiry about the status of the request to replace the 30 mph limit with 20 mph and for the reduced speed zone margins to be extended. He suggested BPC contact DCC's Cabinet Member with responsibility for transportation about progressing the request. Cllr Brazil said that Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is now pretty much off table. During the LGR response phase County and District Councils have been working well together. There is potential for economies of scale. Same or compatible services will be reviewed and a decision made about at what level the service should be delivered. For example gritting is best delivered centrally, compared with planning where delivery is local. Once there is agreement among County and District Councils a proposal can be put to Government. Each council would continue to maintain its sovereignty. There is an agreement with Torbay and Plymouth to set up Devon Strategic Mayoral Authority. It would represent about 1.25 million people. A judicial review has been tabled about the Government's LGR decision. Whether it is started depends on the result of the Government's current LGR 'pause and review'. Cllr Brazil is pretty confident that DCC would win.

French Furze Development

This item was moved up the Agenda at the Chair's discretion.

Cllr Rake said that the developer is in the process of appointing a contractor to fix the final snags on the business units. It is a short list of snagging items. Cllr Rake expects a timeline for the units' transfer this week, which can then be used to prepare for next actions. It is hoped to expand the Business Units CIC membership now that there will be something to do.

The developer has submitted a S73 planning application which addresses the playpark, drainage, and west end of the site. In it the steps are removed and a retaining wall inserted which allows an expanded toddler play area. It wasn't validated by SHDC, but has been resubmitted and is awaiting validation.

It may be possible to work with SHDC to build out the remaining three business units and run them. SHDC operates its own business units, so has helpful experience.

Report from South Hams District Council Councillor

The elections next year will be for District Council (not a new authority created out of the LGR process). Budget setting will start soon and will be very testing this year because of the Government settlement under

LGR scaling back funding. The Freeport and associated projects at Sherford and Langage are coming near to their next phases, which is positive for SHDC's funds. Solar panels have been installed on the Kingsbridge Leisure Centre and will follow on Ivybridge's.

Planning Applications

South Hams District Council's Planning Decisions. The decision as follows was noted:

2258/26/FUL Westdown TQ9 7AL. General Purpose Agricultural Building. **Conditional Approval.**

Review of New Applications. BPC considered commenting to SHDC on the following application:

2529/26/HHO 2 Greenslade Road Blackawton TQ9 7BP. Demolition of conservatory with replacement extension & associated minor alterations. It was resolved that no response will be made.

The applications below are for information:

2709/26/ARC Bow Cottage Blackawton TQ9 7AH. Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 7 (Windows / Doors) & 8 (External Attachments) of planning consent 1800/25/LBC.

2712/26/ARC Bow Cottage Blackawton TQ9 7AH. Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 10 (Windows / Doors) & 11 (External Attachments) of planning consent 1799/25/HHO.

Consultations

- Consultation on Plymouth becoming a member of the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority and conversion to a Mayoral Strategic Authority. Closes 28 October 2026. Budgeted funds would be transferred and there would be more local say in how funds are spent. It was resolved that BPC would respond in support, implementation delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair.
- South Hams District Council. Taxi Fare Review for setting the maximum taxi fares for Hackney Carriages (the vehicles with a 'TAXI' roof sign). Closes 22 October 2026.
- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service. Community Risk Management Plan. Closes 4/1/2027.

Wind Turbine Feasibility Study

The update Report was noted. A meeting of the Steering Group will be arranged to agree next steps.

Blackawton Log of Traffic Collisions and Near-Collisions

Three responses have been received to date and they are about three different locations. BPC will review and consider actions it can take.

Blackawton Sewage Treatment Works

Request for regulatory clarification on capacity and resilience. Replies to BPC's correspondence have now been received from Ofwat, the Environment Agency, and South West Water. The Clerk's Report noted that the new storm tank has been installed and is fully operational, the works has been dry weather flow compliant since 2013, decisions regarding future investment and capacity increases are guided by the strategic Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans (the next update is scheduled for 2028). The spills data shows that it spilt 56 times in 2025. The Clerk said that although they remain unclear about the Blackawton plant's operations it would take more time to understand the operational data published by SWW and there is no apparent intervention for BPC to take. The meeting agreed that no further action will be taken by BPC and appreciated the current local citizen science monitoring river water quality.

Blackawton Beacon

The Clerk's Report was noted. The Parish Council confirmed the view that the Beacon is an important community resource to support. The Parish Councillors would welcome a meeting with the Beacon's creators if requested.

Churchyard Tree Planting

It was agreed that BPC will now plant a crab apple (Malus) John Downie on MM106 root stock on the north side of the path from School Lane to the Church.

Maintenance of Council Assets

Woodlands Bus Shelter Flag. BPC confirmed that the adhesive notice to replace the flag on the Dartmouth bound shelter is acceptable and that BPC wants the shelter to be on DCC's list to install a solar panel (as part of DCC's current program) subject to confirmation of the details.

War Memorial Grounds Maintenance. It was noted that the Clerk has requested a clean up of the area at the end of October. Cllr Rake will be BPC's representative at the Remembrance Day service on 8 November.

Data Protection Compliance – Blackawton Community Website Data

It was resolved to delegate the Clerk authority in consultation with the Chair to finalise the service contract and the data processing contract with the website host and to sign on behalf of the Council.

Finance
Annual Governance and Accountability Return Audit 25/26. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit and the External Auditor's report were noted. Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR are in accordance with Proper Practices and no matters were raised.
Update on Current Financial Position. The Reports were received and Bank Reconciliation signed. Total balance at 30 September £73,435.87 and unearmarked general fund £33,544.88.

Payments. It was resolved to authorise the following payments:

External Audit	£250.00
Clerk September Expenses Reimbursement	£112.32
Grounds Maintenance Cemetery Biodiversity areas cut	£42.00
Grounds Maintenance Frequent cuts 4, 15, and 30 September Churchyard	£210.00
and Cemetery	£342.00
Community Defibrillator annual support agreement	£198.00

Payments authorised since the last monthly meeting:

Parish Lengthsman. To 31 March 2026	
(The 25/26 end of year hours balance of was 3 hours in credit.)	£264.00
Two Forces Cross visibility splay cuts & Parish lengthsman work 8 September	£275.00

Interest Earning Account. It was resolved to open a Lloyds 35 day notice account as a temporary measure, because the interest is comparatively low, and to deposit earmarked reserves. Notice to then be given that funds will be withdrawn. The November meeting to receive a report on interest earning account options.
Replacement for the use of the Clerk's Personal Credit Card. It was agreed to implement the proposals in the Report.

Correspondence
The following invitation was noted: Invitation to webinar about setting up green heat networks, 13/10/26, 7:00-8.30 pm. Hosted Carbon Copy.

Conservation of the Historic Entrance Gates to St Michael's Churchyard
It was resolved to accept the middle priced quote. The blacksmith is experienced, heritage trained, and works with traditional methods and in wrought iron which are requirements for this project.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall on **Monday 9th November** 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 Claire Douglas-Ross		claire@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

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

Stanborough Chorus

from **Claudia Benzies**

An Evening of Choral Masterworks

Bach, Haydn, Schubert with orchestra

November 21st at 7.30 pm

St. George's Church, Modbury

Tickets £18, under 18s free. From Kingsbridge TIC, Modbury PO, on the door and choir members. Refreshments available.

Come and Sing ~ open evening

Join us for a relaxed friendly evening of Christmas music. Find out what Stanborough Chorus is all about.

November 30th at 7.00 pm

Kingsbridge Methodist Church

for enquiries or a lift ring **07712 210300**

News from Children's Hospice South West

from **Ann Green**

The Dartmouth and District Friends group have made a good start with fundraising this year, and as ever we are grateful to you, our supporters. In September we raised over £700 selling refreshments and homemade cakes in the Royal Avenue Gardens, Dartmouth. The Royal Castle Hotel, Dartmouth are once more hosting a coffee morning at the hotel with all proceeds going to the charity.

Christmas will be with us before you know it so please add our traditional Christmas Fair to your calendar. It will be in the **Old Market Square, Dartmouth** on **Saturday 5th December** between 10 and 3 pm. Refreshments, homemade cakes and produce with a Christmas theme, stalls and music are to be found, along with lots of good cheer. Please join us to support this very special charity which provides care for children with life limiting conditions and also supports their families, especially siblings.

from the Editor

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

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

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



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**

Blackawton Blooms
Wreath Making Workshops

I'm very happy to say that we're running our popular wreath making workshops at two venues this year, the scenic Blackpool Sands Beach Café and a new location, Fingals in Dittisham. At Fingals we are running two events, one a workshop including lunch and the other a workshop with a two course supper and wine.

Come and join us for what are always really enjoyable, relaxed events and a lovely way to get into the Christmas spirit. Come as you are, with a friend, or buy it as a Christmas gift for someone.

Dates and times as follows:

11:00am – 3:00pm Saturday 28th November at Fingals, Dittisham.
Wreath making workshop and refreshments followed by lunch of soup and sourdough, £80, or early bird booking by November 8th £75.

4:00pm – 8:00pm Saturday 28th November at Fingals, Dittisham.
Wreath making workshop and refreshments, followed by 2 course supper and a glass of wine £120, or early bird price £110 if booked by November 8th.

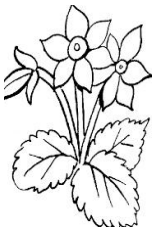
10:00am – 12:30pm Tuesday 1st December at Blackpool Sands Beach Café.
Wreath making workshop and refreshments £70, early bird price £65 if booked by November 8th

10:00am – 12:30pm Thursday 3rd December at Blackpool Sands Beach Café.
Wreath making workshop and refreshments £70, early bird price £65 if booked by November 8th

Come and make your own beautiful Christmas wreath to adorn your door this festive season. All materials. frames, wire, mossing twine, fir, a large variety of foliage, cones, dried fruit, etc provided and I will take you step by step through making your own stunning creation.

Please contact me on **07951 296494** by text, WhatsApp, phone or email **info@blackawtonblooms.co.uk** to book your place.

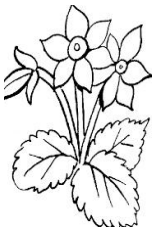
Looking forward to seeing you there for some festive fun. Many thanks, Jane.



AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER NOW!

Blackawton Blooms

Sustainable Christmas Wreaths and Gift Bouquets



Sumptuous, luxurious, sustainable, long-lasting Christmas wreaths, made the traditional way are available for pre-order now!

For examples please see photos on the Blackawton Blooms Facebook page **www.facebook.com/blackawtonblooms/photos** £65.00 without lights, £69 with lights. Wreaths can be collected from Blackawton, delivered locally or **posted anywhere in the country**.

Sensational, sustainable hand-tied bouquets are also available for local delivery in the South Hams and can be **posted anywhere in the country**, so everyone can have a little bit of Devon sent to their door ☺.

My flowers have a minimal carbon footprint, are grown 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 they are grown in Blackawton, from November to March I buy in from other Devon, SW and British growers (also zero air miles). All of this and long-lasting to boot.

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

Email me at **info@blackawtonblooms.co.uk**,
Check out my FB page **www.facebook.com/blackawtonblooms/**
And website **www.blackawtonblooms.co.uk** for examples of my work.
Or call/message me on **07951 296494**

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**

KTS Ltd

Knowle Tree Services

Your Local Tree Specialist
ALL aspects of tree care since 2006

Domestic and Commercial Tree Work
Hedge Cutting and Removal
Qualified and Highly Skilled Team
Planning Applications
Help with TPO's
£5m public liability insurance
FREE consultation and NO obligation quotations

Tel. 07803 441759
Tel. 07711 828184

LOGS
Dried Logs always available for delivery

enquiries@knowletreeservices.co.uk

www.knowletreeservices.co.uk

DAYMENT

PLUMBING & HEATING Ltd

Expert plumbing & heating services available.
Quick, efficient & affordable solutions.

james@daymentplumbing.co.uk
07737531165

Registered Oil Heating Business

OFTEC

Gas Safe Register

Music Lessons

Church Street, Halwell

Piano, composition, electronic music, Japanese shakuhachi flute

Mike McInerney BA ALCM PhD FHEA
25 years' experience

07375 365228
www.mikemcinerney.com

STANBOROUGH FARM

QUALITY LOCAL PRODUCE

Now is the time to order your free-range, oven-ready bird for Christmas!
Turkeys, Geese, Ducks & Chicken

To order:
Online: **www.stanboroughfarm.com**
Text/WhatsApp: **07796448377**
E-mail: **info@stanboroughfarm.com**

Stanborough Farm, Halwell, Totnes

Find and follow us on social media:
Stanborough Farm
stanboroughfarm

COPPER TOPS

TREE SURGERY & LANDSCAPING

We offer expert services in:

- All aspects of tree surgery
- Garden clearances
- Stump grinding
- Hedge trimming & strimming
- Landscape, design and build
- Groundworks
- Fencing, decking and patios

For enquires or a free quote, call Matt:

07782 349069

01803 712632

www.coppertopstreesurgery.co.uk

Parish Diary

November 2026

Sunday 1st	10.00 am	Blackawton Playing Fields tidy up	Play Park
	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
	3.00 pm	People's Emergency Briefing film showing	Village Hall
Monday 2nd	7.00 pm	Village Hall AGM	Village Hall
Tuesday 3rd	6.00 pm	Blackawton Community Board Games	Village Hall
Wednesday 4th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to The Willows via Totnes	Bus shelter
	9.15 am	Hatha Yoga	Village Hall
	10.30 am	Chair Yoga	Village Hall
	7.30 pm	PCC meeting	Church
Thursday 5th	12.30 pm	BASH visit to Devon Rural Archive	Shilstone
Friday 6th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 7th	6.30 pm	Blackawton Bonfire and Fireworks	George Inn/field
Sunday 8th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
	4.00 pm	Film: How to Live on Earth	Village Hall
Monday 9th	6.30 pm	Blackawton Christmas Choir	Orchard House, Vicarage Road
	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall
Wednesday 11th	9.15 am	Hatha Yoga	Village Hall
	10.30 am	Chair Yoga	Village Hall
Friday 13th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
	7.30 pm	FOBS Curry & Quiz Night	Village Hall
Saturday 14th	7.00 pm	Church Autumn Supper	Figtree, Vicarage Road
Sunday 15th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
Sunday 15th	2.00 pm	BADS panto rehearsal	Village Hall
Monday 16th	7.30 pm	Blackawton Christmas Choir	Orchard House
Tuesday 17th	6.00 pm	Blackawton Community Board Games	Village Hall
Wednesday 18th	9.15 am	Hatha Yoga	Village Hall
	10.30 am	Blackawton WI meeting	Village Hall
Thursday 19th	7.00 pm	Save Our Pub! meeting	Village Hall
Friday 20th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 21st	6.00 pm	The Cube Disco	Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Stanborough Chorus Choral concert	St. George's Church, Modbury
		Beacon deadline for December edition	
Sunday 22nd	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
Monday 23rd	7.30 pm	Blackawton Christmas Choir	Orchard House
Tuesday 24th	6.30 pm	Sustainable Blackawton meeting	Figtree, Vicarage Road
Wednesday 25th	9.15 am	Hatha Yoga	Village Hall
	10.30 am	Chair Yoga	Village Hall
	6.30 pm	French Furze Vistry meeting	Village Hall
Friday 27th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Totnes and Newton Abbot	Bus shelter
	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Sunday 29th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
	2.00 pm	BADS panto rehearsal	Village Hall
	6.30 pm	Advent Carol Service	Church
Monday 30th	7.00 pm	Stanborough Chorus open evening	Kingsbridge Methodist Church
	7.30 pm	Blackawton Christmas Choir	Orchard House