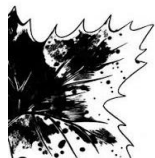




Blackawton Beacon

October 2026

published jointly by the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council



BLACKAWTON BALL



MUSIC - FOOD - DANCING

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 | 6:15PM

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE VILLAGE SHOP OR
SHIRLEY OR JO MILLS - 07790 980639
£35 A TICKET (CASH ONLY)



BLACK TIE

MUSIC BY "THE FILTHY GORGEOUS"



PROSECCO & CANAPES ON ARRIVAL, ALONG WITH A 2 COURSE BUFFET

BLACKAWTON VILLAGE HALL

IN AID OF SAVE OUR PUB AND BLACKAWTON FIREWORKS



Richie Ros

One voice, one guitar, one unforgettable show. An evening of music, stories and Irish soul, his only appearance in the South Hams on his 2026 UK tour.

Blackawton Village Hall

Saturday 24th October

Doors and bar from 7.00 pm, show starts at 7.30 pm.

Tickets £10.00: available from the Village Shop, Adrian (07890 392444) or on the door.



AUDITIONS



for **a Pantomime**

at 3.00 pm, Sunday 11th October

in the Village Hall

to be performed on

Friday 29th & Saturday 30th January 2027

Please come along if you'd like to be involved in any capacity, on- or back-stage.

If you'd like to be involved but are unable to attend the auditions, please contact David Andrews davidhughandrews@gmail.com or **07754 905890**.



Allotments Halloween and Harvest Trail Wednesday 28th October 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

Join us for a fun, family-friendly trail around the allotments aimed at pre-school and primary school children.

Donations welcome Children must be accompanied by an adult

Find allotments behind the Village Hall, turn left at tennis courts.

Allotments Harvest Soup Lunch Saturday 31st October from 12.00 pm

Join us at the Village Hall for pumpkin soup (allotment grown!)

£5 soup and roll ~ teas and cakes also for sale

Halloween activities for children ~ allotment produce for sale

Cash only please

For more info contact Emilie: emilieh@hotmail.co.uk

St Michael's Church

Services for October

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>
Sunday 4th	9.30 am	Holy Communion (by extension)
Tuesday 6th	9.00 am	Connect! (every Tuesday during term-time)
Sunday 11th	9.30 am	Breakfast Church
Wednesday 14th	7.00 pm	Harvest Festival
Sunday 18th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th	9.30 am	Morning Worship

Donations of flowers and produce for Harvest Festival would be very welcome.

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.**

From the registers

Sunday 6th September Baptism of Mosie Jordan

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



Play Reading

Tuesday 20th October
at Ruby House at 7.30 pm

Bring a bottle if you wish; corkscrew, glasses, tea, coffee, etc, will be provided.

BASH (Blackawton & Strete History Group)

from **Andrea Scott**

Do come and join us to hear about the history of Blackawton Church with all sorts of fascinating facts and things to see. Chris Janman is giving a talk on **Friday October 2nd** at 7.30 pm, in the church. Tea and coffee etc. available. We would love to see you!

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!

Shoebox Appeal 2026

from **Rachel Moss**

This year's Shoebox Appeal is channelled through **cr2ee** (Christian Response to Eastern Europe), operating from Exmouth. These shoeboxes will be heading to Moldova and Ukraine. Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe, and Ukraine is still in the grips of war. We know every single box will be gratefully received this Christmas!

Please take any completed shoeboxes (or contributions) to Blackawton Church by **Wednesday 21st October**. There will be a box, or area clearly labelled for you to leave your box/items in.

Please label each completed box with the approximate age and indicate **boy** or **girl**. You are welcome to include photos of your family and a covering letter, but **no address** please. There is **no cost** for transport or need for a paid barcode!

Bless you and Thank you! For more help or information contact Rachel on **07840 704567**.

Blackawton WI

from **Sandra Tope**

Back in the spring, members were each given a seed potato to take part in our annual competition. Prizes are awarded for the heaviest crop and the most potatoes grown from one seed. Our September meeting was the date for the weigh in and count up. As usual there was a wide difference in the results, seemingly dependent on where and in what they were grown. The competition was won emphatically by Maureen Godfrey, but well done to everyone who took part, in a very challenging summer! We will try to come up with a new idea for next year.

Our speaker this month was April, from Dartmouth Caring. Members were given a list of all the activities and clubs they run, as well as the services they provide to the community of Dartmouth and surrounding villages, including Blackawton. We were amazed at the number of volunteers they have, although more are always needed. So, if anyone has any spare time, they would be pleased to hear from you. April then judged our Bloom of the Month, which was won for the second month in a row by Christine Eastman, and the Competition for a shawl, won by Val Harding. Congratulations to you both.

Our October meeting is on Wednesday 21st, 10.30 am at the Village Hall. The speaker is Hannah, giving us a demonstration of chair yoga. The competition is for 'An old treasure' as well as the Bloom of the Month. If you are interested in the WI and would like to learn more, or if you are an ex member who would like to rejoin us, please come along to the meeting, you are assured of a warm welcome! For more information please call Sue on **01803 712145** or Sandra on **01803 712622**.

Blackawton Wind Power project

Thank you to all those that returned completed questionnaires from the September Beacon, it would be wonderful if **all** recipients of the Beacon responded so that a really comprehensive view of local residents is achieved! Especially those in Blackawton Parish but outside the village, as all replies received initially are from “village” residents. Still, as long as those folk with definite views reply we will have a good idea of public feeling generally. It is not too late to let us know how you feel about this, we really do want your feedback. The questionnaire is still available to anyone that no longer has the September Beacon but would like to share their thoughts, email **ruth@blackawtoncommunity.com** for an electronic copy.

People's Emergency Briefing film showing

Blackawton Village Hall

Sunday 1st November 2026 at 3.00 pm

Age rating: 16+ ~ Tickets free from: **buytickets.atsustainableblackawton/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 (and donations welcome). Sit back, enjoy the views, save on fuel, parking & frayed nerves. **Please book by 12 noon the day before**; call **01752 690444** or email **info@ringandride.net**. Or call Claudia Benzies, Coordinator, on **07712 210300**.

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

Timetable for October:

Friday 2nd	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Wednesday 7th	The Willows, Torquay via Totnes
Friday 9th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 16th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 23rd	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Wednesday 28th	Newton Abbot via Totnes
Friday 30th	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**.

Blackawton Bonfire and Fireworks

Saturday 7th November

Procession to the bonfire field at 6.30 pm

A brilliant bonfire, fabulous fireworks, burgers, hot dogs, vegi-options and bar. ALL CASH ONLY.

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**.

Village Hall

Volunteer Needed!

from **Laura Howell**

I'm unable to continue my role as booking secretary beyond the end of October so we need someone else to do this. It's not particularly onerous needing 15 - 30 minutes a few times a week to keep up with bookings, payments, and emails, plus around an hour once a month to update the website and Facebook page with what's on in the hall.

If you can help, please email villagehall@blackawtoncommunity.com.

Blackawton Horticultural Show

was held on September 12th and in spite of a very difficult year for gardeners, the number of entries was up on recent years. We were pleased with the number of children who entered and also the number of first-time entrants - some of whom won cups! (By the way, there were no entries from secondary school-aged people this year - so that could be an easy way to win a prize, if you are in that age range!)

The cup winners this year were Fern Eden, Margaret Eden, Adam Gaisford, Adam Janman, Emilie Janman, Lesley Mallyon, Felicity Mansfield, Elodie Perry and Helen Perry. Many congratulations to them, and thanks to everyone who entered. The judges and all the people who came were impressed by the entries in all the different categories.

October events

Willow Sculpture Workshop

Saturday 3rd, 10.00 am – 5.30 pm

with **Sue Radford**: www.craftcourses.com/courses/willow-sculpture-workshop-with-sue-radford

French Furze Vistry Meeting

Wednesday 7th, 6.30 – 9.00 pm

VOX Theatre present **Pride & Prejudice**

Saturday 10th, bar 6.00 pm, show starts 7.00 pm

the 80s Mixtape Musical. Book here: www.tickettailor.com/events/voxtheatre/2401273

Parish Council Meeting

Monday 12th, 7.30 - 10.30 pm

Blackawton Ball

Saturday 17th, 6.15 pm

in aid of Save Our Pub & Fireworks. Tickets from Village Shop, Jo, or Shirley

Blackawton WI Meeting

Wednesday 21st, 10.30 - 12.30 am

Richie Ros: music, stories and Irish soul

Saturday 24th, bar 7.00 pm, show starts 7.30 pm

Allotment Association Soup Lunch

Saturday 31st

This autumn themed event will have homemade soup made from allotment produce plus family friendly activities such as pumpkin crafts and face painting.

Hatha Yoga

Wednesdays 7th, 14th and 21st, 9.15 to 10.15 am

Seated Yoga

Wednesdays 7th, 14th, 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 Thursday 8th, Saturday 10th, Saturday 17th and Saturday 24th, all from 6.00 pm onwards.

Booking the Village Hall

The best way to check availability and make a provisional booking of the Village Hall is to use the interactive calendar at the bottom of the page on the community website blackawtoncommunity.com/community-page/blackawton-village-hall. 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



Something new to snack on: we have a new addition to the shelves this month: Delve - oat crisps! They're made with oats instead of potato, which gives them a lovely hearty crunch. We've started with garlic and wild parsley flavour, with more flavours coming soon; give them a try and tell us which you'd like us to keep in stock.

We canvassed opinion on the oat crisps at our **AGM** at the end of September, when (as well as sharing snacks, a drink and a chat) we report to shop Association members, volunteers and any other interested members of the community on the past year. Those who came along heard how, after a loss-making year in 2024-5, we drew back to breakeven in 2025-6 and are, we hope, on course to make a small profit this year. Any profit the shop does make must be either reinvested in it or put towards other local community projects. So all your support goes to good causes! As ever, thanks are due to our managers, wonderful volunteers and the village at large, for the support that keeps the shop going as such a great resource and community hub.



Wines of the month

each £7.99 - or buy both for £15.50

Tuna Club Verdejo Sauvignon Blanc, Spain

A zesty, aromatic white with gorgeous fresh notes of citrus fruit and melon. A crisp and refreshing palate with light minerality and a clean, juicy finish – this is great on its own, chilled, or with your favourite seafood.

Los Pastos Merlot, Chile

This soft, medium-bodied red is smooth, fruity and easy drinking, with juicy berry fruit, hints of damson and a touch of cinnamon. Perfect for an autumn evening! It matches well with poultry, red meat and mature cheese.

Could you lend a hand? Your shop and post office keep going thanks to our brilliant team of volunteers, and we're always delighted to welcome new faces. We'd especially love to hear from anyone who could help out on the post office counter. Whether you can give a regular slot or the odd few hours, please do pop in for a chat to find out more.

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**



Blackawton Parish Council **Traffic Collision and Near-Collision Log**

The traffic log form is now available on the community website. We are asking residents to report locations in the parish where collisions or near collisions have occurred. Our aim is to help identify possible road safety issues and provide evidence when raising concerns with Devon County Council.

The official statistics available to Devon County Council are based on injury-related collisions reported to or recorded by the Police, so they don't provide a complete picture of incidents in the parish.

The online form is the preferred way to submit information. This QR code takes you straight to the form on www.blackawtoncommunity.com

Paper copies of the form are also available from the Community Shop.



The Thoughts of Chairman Rake

from **Simon Rake**

Unsolved mysteries

Not one, but two mysteries on which to puzzle this month. The first is bigger and, in all likelihood, harder to solve. The second is smaller and no less important but hopefully more amenable to a quick solution.

Mystery The First: What on earth is the government up to? Without wishing to go over old ground, the government first announced that it would reorganise the structure of local government, merging the two current layers (District and County in our case) into single unitary authorities. Then it formally invited proposals from the Councils. In Devon this resulted in five proposals being submitted; in a previous column I described three of these as sensible and the other two as something along the lines of 'bonkers'.

To very little surprise, but considerable disappointment, the government duly selected one of the bonkers ones. Our fate, it seemed, was sealed. Following this decision, all the Councils in Devon devoted significant resources to begin the process of moving to the brave new world that awaited us. At the same time, Devon County Council also began the process of challenging the government's decision through a Judicial Review. It was not alone: at least half a dozen other Councils had indicated that they would do the same.

Not so fast! On 7 September the government announced that it was cancelling the reorganisation process in four areas (that were a few weeks further along in the whole process) and pausing the process in fourteen other areas – Devon included – for 'review'. As yet we don't know how long this review will take, and of course we don't know what the final outcome is going to be. All that we do know is that Councils have been told not to do any more work on the process for the time being and that the elections to be held in May 2027 will now be for District Councils (as was the case before the whole rigmarole began) rather than the new-fangled 'Shadow Authorities' that would have been precursors to the new unitaries.

So as things stand a huge amount of staff and Councillor time and a fair amount of cash-type money has been expended to get to a position of great uncertainty, where timelines and outcomes are completely unknown. My overriding feeling is that central government treats local government as an irrelevant plaything. As some old geezer says in King Lear, "As flies to wanton boys are we to the gods; they kill us for their sport." Well, exactly!

So what exactly is the government up to? Well, the official line is that the decision to pause and review came after new legal advice and that the forthcoming 'Rewiring the State' white paper will bring its own plans for local government (can't wait!). Perhaps the government was spooked by the legal challenges, or even more so by the level of discontent that these represented. Maybe the ministerial reshuffle in the wake of Andy Burnham's arrival in No10 caused the government to come to its senses and realise that it had broken nearly all the rules it had set for the process when making its initial decisions. We shall see, but for the time being it's all very mysterious.

Mystery The Second: The case of the missing dumpy bags. A few weeks ago a crack team of volunteers undertook the annual Great Village Rake Off. This was largely a success. Although the fringes and some other areas need a little additional attention, most of the Churchyard has been strimmed and the arisings carried away to remove nutrients and thus encourage wildflower growth. Huge thanks to all who took part.

The mystery lies in the fate of some of the ‘dumpy bags’ used to gather up the cuttings. They seem to have vanished, and their owner is bereft. Anything you can do to help solve this smaller mystery would be extremely welcome. Please get in touch if you can help us with enquiries.

Blackawton Parish Council meeting

from **Annette Thom**

Notes of the Monthly Meeting of Blackawton Parish Council held on Monday 14th September 2026 at 7.30 pm in Blackawton Village Hall. Complete minutes can be read at **www.blackawtoncommunity.com** or the parish noticeboard.

Present: BPC Cllrs Oughton (Vice-Chair and meeting Chair), Coe, Hadow, Luckens, and Thomas were present, as were DCC Cllr Brazil for his report, Clerk A Thom, and one member of the public. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Rake.

Councillors Forum

Cllrs raised an administrative matter regarding the list of meeting action items, and the maintenance needed to footpaths 18 and 19 which is addressed as an Agenda item in this meeting.

Report from Devon County Council Councillor

Cllr Brazil reported on recent meetings of the DCC full Council and of the Cabinet. The Cabinet is thrilled that the most recent Ofsted monitoring letter is very supportive and encouraging. Work has been done to improve Children’s and Social Services. The Ofsted ranking is moving from good towards outstanding.

Regarding Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), DCC had planned to request a judicial review of the Government’s decision because the criteria the Government set were not followed and the LGR will cost £90 million to deliver. However the Government has now decided to pause and review the process. Eight of the 21 councils going through LGR have submitted judicial review – hence the Government’s pause. DCC has paused submission of its judicial review until 13 October pending getting clarification from the Government. DCC may progress with submitting the judicial review if the Government’s response is not satisfactory. There is only a three month period after a decision in which a judicial review request can be lodged. The deadline is 16 October. DCC has asked to be reimbursed for the cost of LGR because that is extra work. It is crucial to the people of Devon that they get this right. Cllr Brazil agrees that changes would be helpful but would focus on systems and allow local councils in Devon to develop solutions. There is now a much better relationship between County and District Councils, with more collaborative team working eg on homelessness, care, care leavers.

Works to protect Torcross have started. DCC is waiting on the Government’s response to its bid for funds for works on the Slapton Line road.

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

The Clerk’s recommendation that BPC considers the possible two candidates in its 12 October meeting was approved.

Planning Applications

South Hams District Council’s Planning Decisions

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

2001/26/TEX Wadstray House Blackawton TQ9 7DE. Tree Works. **No Objection Raised.**

2159/26/COM Church Quillet Blackawton. Notice of intent to install electronic communication apparatus comprising one light wooden pole at 10 metres high (Ref: WH5RHF4T). **Do not wish to comment.**

2219/26/COM Near Shearstone Barn Blackawton TQ9 7DG. Notice of intent to install electronic communication apparatus comprising two x 10m light wooden poles (Ref: WH5RGH5H). **Do not wish to comment.**

1703/26/ARC Development at SX 8052 5109 Town Farm School Lane Blackawton. Application for approval of details reserved by condition 20 (Traffic Management Plan) of planning consent 3878/18/VAR. **Discharge of Condition Approved.**

Review of New Applications

2151/26/HHO Pruston House Blackawton TQ9 7AJ. Upgrade conservatory, new front breakfast room, side link & rear porch. It was resolved that no response will be made to SHDC.

2258/26/FUL Westdown Blackawton TQ9 7AL. General Purpose Agricultural Building. It was resolved that no response will be made to SHDC.

Full Variation application to the premises licence SHPL0295 from Punch Taverns Limited for The Seale Arms, 10 Victoria Road, Dartmouth, TQ6 9SA. It was resolved that no response will be made to SHDC.

The following premises licence applications were noted. They have closed to comments. No extraordinary meeting was considered necessary to comment:

Full Variation application to the premises licence SHPL0536 from Mad Hatters Tea Room & Restaurant, on the ground floor at 10 Fairfax Place, Dartmouth, TQ6 9AD.

New premises licence from the Henderson Seafood Limited for The Counter, Unit 5, Old Market Square, Dartmouth, TQ6 9SE

The following application is provided for BPC's information:

2125/26/SCO Town Farm School Lane Blackawton TQ9 7BE. Request for EIA screening opinion for a Solar Farm. Under Consideration.

Consultations

SHDC Joint Local Plan: Scoping consultation to gather views. Closes 24/9/26. BPC is not submitting a Council response. Cllrs may choose to comment individually.

French Furze Development

Cllr Thomas reported that Vistry did a site visit of the Business Units on 10 August. Vistry has produced a snagging list of 13 items to be dealt with by Vistry, including the addition of useful under-counter sockets which aren't on the specifications. The Heras fencing around the last three units will be replaced with closed board fencing on the front and side, and over part of back to stop people getting back there. There is no delivery time-frame. There will a public residents' meeting in the Village Hall on 12th October.

Wind Turbine Feasibility Study

There are interested landowners. The project is somewhat behind schedule which has been raised with Community Power Solutions. CPS and BPC are discussing a data processor contract.

Use of the Blackawton Cemetery Shed

The proposal to use available free space in the shed to store some Wormcharming Festival equipment was approved subject to the response from BPC's insurer.

Maintenance of Footpaths 18 and 19 in Blackawton

South Hams Ramblers' offer to carry out the works with free labour and reimbursement of materials cost was supported subject to Devon County Council's support. It was agreed that BPC will make use of earmarked DCC footpath maintenance grant funds for the materials expenses subject to the provision of adequate documentation and evidence (most likely based on support for payment from the DCC Public Right of Way Warden).

Stonemason Work completed on Churchyard Walls

The meeting resolved to pay the traffic management invoices.

The stonemasons removed the wall to ground level (rather than about half way down as in the specifications) in two of the three Park Lane sites in order to achieve a more robust result. It was resolved to accept the change to the specifications on Park Lane adding layer of mortar to funnel water into the drainage pipe based on the change to specifications documentation already available, to thank the stonemason for the high quality of their work, and that in recognition of the extra work done the extra traffic management fee (£80) will not be passed on to the stonemason.

Repainting of Lychgate Piers and Wall on Park Lane near Cousins Cross

BPC will submit the necessary List B application to the Church of England, Exeter Diocese.

Conservation and Maintenance of Churchyard Gates

It was resolved to approve the proposals in the Report including approval of a procurement exercise and a project to request a grant from National Heritage Lottery Fund but not from Heritage England. BPC's responsibility to maintain the northern churchyard wall, which adjoins the School and a property, and its gate will be accepted as is current practice. The meeting noted that churchyard gate maintenance is being separated into two projects: Grade II listed gates first, and then the School playground gate possibly along with repainting the Cemetery gates as a future separate project.

Traffic Collision Log

The log form is now available on the community website. BPC is seeking to collect information about locations in the Blackawton Parish where traffic collisions (or near collisions) happen - to identify possible road safety issues and have evidence to use when discussing concerns with Devon County Council. The official statistics available to Devon County Council use injury related collisions reported to or recorded by the Police, so they aren't a complete record. It was agreed to provide paper copies of the log form in the Community Shop (subject to the Community Shop's agreement). Completion of the log form online is preferred and BPC will provide a QR code to access the log form on the community website.

Review of Data Protection Compliance

The Clerk has had a very useful session with Breakthrough Communications, who are used by Devon Association of Local Councils to answer more detailed data protection enquiries. There is a list of action items. The Clerk flagged some action items: The data minimisation principle: you should only collect the

minimum personal information needed for the purpose and only share it where necessary to achieve the purpose. Surveys can use 'just in time' consent – with consent achieved by the person taking part in the survey. BPC needs data processor contracts with the provider of the wind turbine feasibility study and with its website host. BPC may need to change website host. Some legitimate interest legal basis assessments need to be done - including for the Beacon and for the community website.

Finance

Update on Current Financial Position. The Reports and Bank Reconciliations at 31 July and 31 August were received. The bank balance at 31 August was £70,728.34, with an unearmarked general reserve of £20,166.85.

Payments. It was resolved to authorise the following payments:

Clerk July & August Expenses Reimbursement	£53.97
Grounds Maintenance Frequent cuts 4 and 18 August 2026 Churchyard	£210.00
& Cemetery	£228.00

The following Payments authorised since the last monthly meeting were noted individually:

Tree ties (12) for Rowan trees (Cllr Luckens reimbursed) £23.97

Replacement tap for Water Butt in the Cemetery (Cllr Luckens reimbursed) £9.19

Replacement of safety glass in Woodlands bus shelter £509.52

Churchyard Stonemason Traffic Management (under BPC Fin. Regs: 7.8 iv) £3,360.00

Creation of the website traffic log requested by BPC £55.00

The following payments made since the last monthly meeting and authorised by BPC annually were noted:

Grounds Maintenance Frequent cuts 7 and 21 July 2026 Churchyard £210.00

& Cemetery £228.00

Insurance Claim for Cost to Replace Glass in the Bus Shelter at Woodlands

The meeting decided that BPC will make not make a claim. The potential payment would be £174.60. There is a risk that the claim would increase the annual premium.

Direct Debits

It was resolved to approve setting up direct debits for regular payments for the SIM only service for Clerk's mobile phone and for the Parish Council's Cloud storage.

Website Domains

It was resolved to move BPC's blackawtoncommunity.com domain to a new registrar. The new registrar's data centres run on 100% renewable energy and they are a certified B Corp. The ongoing annual costs will be reduced from £72.23 to £11.99.

Cemetery Fees

It was noted that the annual CPI increase was implemented from 14 August and that it was due on 1 April.

Contracts

Clerk's Pay Award 26/27. It was noted that the 26/27 NJC Award has been agreed, and that it will be implemented in September 2026 and backpay payments made to 1 April 2026.

Bus Shelter Cleans. It was noted that the contract with Dartmouth Town Council has not yet been renewed and DTC will advise its availability after 14 September.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall on **Monday 12th October** at 7.30 pm. You are most welcome to join the meeting and raise any issues which may be of concern to you.

Council contacts

Cllr Ruth Coe	07845 598658	ruth@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Sue Hadow	07306 007681	sue@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Rob Luckens	07949 179872	rob@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Chris Oughton, Vice chair	01803 302487	chriso@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Simon Rake, Chair	01803 861129	simon@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Steve Thomas	01803 712840	steve@blackawtoncommunity.com
Annette Thom, Parish Clerk	07979 391442	parishclerk@blackawtoncommunity.com
Tree Wardens, Will Benzie	07583 599452	(& Bob Harvey)

Other contacts

South Hams Cllr Simon Rake	01803 861129	Cllr.Simon.Rake@southhams.gov.uk
South Hams District Council	01803 861234	customer.services@southhams.gov.uk
SHDC emergency out of hours	01803 867034	

Devon County Cllr Julian Brazil

01548 511109

julian.brazil@devon.gov.uk

07970 971140

Devon County Council

0345 155 1015

customer@devon.gov.uk

Police non-urgent reporting

101

101@dc.police.uk

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

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)

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 November edition is **Wednesday 21st October**.

The printer used for the Beacon is currently broken so we have used a commercial printer for this edition, which is much more expensive. I have had to omit or shorten some contributions to cut down the cost. I'm sorry about this. We hope normal service will be resumed next month.

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. Thank you.

Andrew Morrow

Advertisements



Blackawton Blooms WREATH MAKING WORKSHOPS



I'll be running my popular wreath making workshops again in late November/early December at various local venues including Blackpool Sands Cafe. Dates are yet to be confirmed but if you'd like to be added to a mailing list please get in touch with me soon.

You will learn to make your own beautiful Christmas wreath just the way you want it, to adorn your door this festive season. I will provide all materials frames, wire, mossing twine, fir, a large variety of foliage, cones, dried flowers, dried fruit, berries, mini pumpkins, chillis etc. I will take you step by step through making your own unique creation. Mulled wine, tea, coffee and mince pies will be included in the price of £65.

Please contact me, Jane, on **07951 296494** by text, WhatsApp or phone or email **info@blackawtonblooms.co.uk** to register your interest. I will know the dates in the next few weeks. I can't wait to teach you how and to see your beautiful wreaths.

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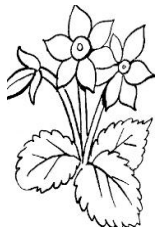
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Check out my FB page <https://www.facebook.com/blackawtonblooms/> and website

<https://www.blackawtonblooms.co.uk> for examples of my work.

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Parish Diary

October 2026

Friday 2nd	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
	7.30 pm	Blackawton & Strete History Group talk	Church
Saturday 3rd	10.00 am	Willow Sculpture Workshop with Sue Radford	Village Hall
Sunday 4th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
Wednesday 7th	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
	6.30 pm	French Furze Vistry Meeting	Village Hall
Friday 9th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 10th	7.00 pm	VOX Theatre present Pride & Prejudice	Village Hall
Sunday 11th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
Sunday 11th	3.00 pm	BADS pantomime auditions	Village Hall
Monday 12th	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall
Wednesday 14th	9.15 am	Hatha Yoga	Village Hall
	10.30 am	Chair Yoga	Village Hall
	7.00 pm	Harvest Festival	Church
Friday 16th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 17th	6.15 pm	Blackawton Ball	Village Hall
Sunday 18th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
Tuesday 20th	7.30 pm	BADS Play Reading	Ruby House
Wednesday 21st	9.15 am	Hatha Yoga	Village Hall
	10.30 am	Blackawton WI meeting	Village Hall
		Deadline for Shoebox Appeal	Church
		Beacon deadline for November edition	
Friday 23rd	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 24th	7.00 pm	Richie Ros: one voice, one guitar	Village Hall
Sunday 25th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
Wednesday 28th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Newton Abbot via Totnes	Bus shelter
	10.30 am	Halloween and Harvest Trail	Allotments
Friday 30th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 31st	12.00 pm	Allotments Harvest Soup Lunch	Village Hall