

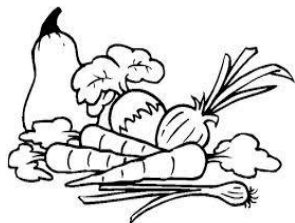


Blackawton Beacon

September 2023

published jointly by the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council

Blackawton Horticultural Show



Saturday 9th September

2.30 pm in the Church and School Hall

Prize-giving at 4.00 pm

Exhibits to be set up between 8.00 and 10.00 am and removed at 4.00 pm if not to be included in the sale which will take place immediately after prize giving.

Refreshments

Raffle

Sale of Produce

classes for vegetables, fruit, flowers, cooking, needlework and art
special classes for children

Get your entries in soon!

An entry form was attached to the August Beacon, more are available at the Community Shop. There is something for everybody – you don't have to have green fingers – so look at the schedule and then get out your knitting needles, paints or camera.

Completed forms must be submitted by **9.00 am on Wednesday 6th September**. Please take or deliver your entries to Laura Howell, Heyes, Main Street, Blackawton, TQ9 7BG.

Prizes in every class!



Judges

We are having trouble recruiting judges for this year's show. Judges that have served in the past have either retired, moved away or are not available on 9th September. The classes concerned are A (Vegetables), B (Fruit), C (Flowers), D (Floral Art), and E (Domestic). If you are a judge, would like to be a judge, or know a judge, please get in touch as soon as possible.

Adrian Kyte, email villagehall@blackawtoncommunity.com or phone **07890 392444**.

St Michael's Church

Services for September

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>
Sunday 3rd September	9:30 am	Holy Communion (by extension)
Sunday 10th September	9.30 am	Morning Worship
Sunday 17th September	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 24th September	9.30 am	Breakfast Church

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

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

From the registers

Saturday 12th August Wedding of Chris Reeve and Roseanna Perry.

Reader's ramblings

from **Frank Robinson**

One of my favourite comedians is Frank Skinner (must be that melodious accent of his!) who returned to the Church a few years ago. In a recent interview he was asked how to succeed in his trade. His answer was that you need to ‘wear skinny jeans, have hair like a chrysanthemum, and be an atheist’. I don’t think I could get close on any of those three.

The journalist Bryan Appleyard has suggested that ‘many, probably most, British people, find that religion has been embarrassed out of existence’. Even a great physicist like Brian Cox has suggested an equivalence between reflecting on the existence of God and that of witches ... WHAT???? And this blind spot is evident across large patches of the academic world. The blinkers have not yet come off right across the political spectrum either. Undifferentiated ‘religion’ it is argued is the cause of all the major wars in history. This is absolute rubbish ... but what is really sad is that what cries out for greatest explanation is not war but the **rejection** of armed conflict preached by Jesus. Being a Christian should not mean agreeing to six impossible propositions before breakfast, but simply doing things that change you. You don’t think your way into a new way of living, but live your way into a new way of thinking.

Forgive me - getting too serious! I will revert to being a clown. But first a case of a real Christian. In the unspeakable conditions of Auschwitz, Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Franciscan, felt called to perform the ultimate sacrifice. A German commandant had just picked out ten Poles, who were to be starved to death. One of these, Sergeant Franciszek Gajourniczek, on hearing his name, broke down at the thought of never seeing his wife and children again. Fr. Maximilian offered to take his place. By that act of self-sacrifice he not only put the seal on his own life, but also gave meaning to all those who, over millennia, had made his life possible.

Perhaps I could get a chrysanthemum wig! God bless you all.

Our church team

Churchwardens Kate Janman 01803 712362
 Chris Janman 01803 712362

Lay Readers Frank Robinson 01803 712249
 Lyn Robinson 01803 712249

Blackawton WI

from **Sandra Tope**

What a dismal summer we are having, although we were lucky to have one of the better days for our summer meeting which was held at Hole Farm in Dittisham. A small group of members enjoyed sunshine, games and chat, entertained by Maurice the mower. If you know, you know. If you don't, then come along next year to find out!

Our book club has quite an easy read this time: *My name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout. A short book but it will be interesting to hear all the different points of view. One thing is certain, we won't all agree, which is what makes it all the more interesting.

Due to the Village Hall being out of action this month, our next meeting will be held at **Sportsmans Arms** on **Wednesday 20th September**, at 10.30 am. Our speaker is a representative from the Children's Hospice. We thought it would be fun if the competition would be a home made toy which will be donated to the hospice once judged. As usual there will be the bloom of the month competition. So please get knitting or sewing to make that toy!

We are always on the lookout for new members, we are a friendly bunch, and the WI is a great way to make new friends, and learn new skills. So, if you would like to know more, please call Sue on **01803 712145** or Sandra **01803 712622**, or just come along to a free meeting. We would love to see you!

South Pool Pony Club Bingo

from **Helen Bond**

Moreleigh Village Hall

Friday 22nd September

Doors open 6.30 pm Eyes down 7.30 pm

Refreshments



Topping



Brambles, weeds, long grass

Phone Robert U'Ren for quote

01548 521278

Tree Warden

from **Bob Harvey**

September 1st: flail away! Farmers must flail hedges, facing (not topping) alongside roads at all times, but only from September 1st to February 28th when it is out of the nesting season. Why they do it every year would baffle their forefathers, as it does farmers in other European countries, as they are a valuable source of firewood and income. If hedges are faced on the sides and the tops allowed to grow they can earn government subsidies, and on-farm evidence shows that if managed on a 20-year cycle for wood fuel they also provide a healthy additional income for a farmer. So why pay for flailing every year when doing nothing earns you money? "Because we've always done it that way", I'm told.

Pick your own apples for cider or juice

from **Sally Jaine**

We have a small orchard of cider apple trees, which can be used for cider or juice, but this year our usual cider-makers aren't available. The crop is heavy and should be ready in September, there for the taking. If you're interested in filling your baskets, contact Tom and Sally Jaine on **01803 712269** or **tomjaine269@gmail.com**.

Mobile Library

from **Heidi McCoy**, Libraries Unlimited

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

The next visit to Blackawton will be on **Tuesday 26th September** at 11.55 am, at the bus shelter.

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

Village Concert

from **Bob Barsby**

In last month's Beacon I invited musicians and groups to perform in a village concert on Saturday 16th September.

Unfortunately, not enough performers have come forward so the concert has been **cancelled**.

West Dart Community Bus



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

Regular services

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

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

Timetable for September:

Friday 1st	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Wednesday 6th	The Willows, Torquay via Totnes
Friday 8th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 15th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 22nd	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Wednesday 27th	Newton Abbot via Totnes
Friday 29th	Dartmouth via Dittisham

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

Village Hall

Roof Repairs

The Hall is **closed for September and October** for essential roof repairs.

If you are planning an event, or have a regular booking which you think would fit into church, ask Kate Janman (ring **01803 712362** or email **kate.janman@gmail.com**). Or if you think the school hall would be more suitable, contact Helen Hurrell (**helen.hurrell@educationsouthwest.org.uk**) who deals with out-of-school-hours bookings.

Horticultural Show

The village Horticultural Show will take place as normal on **Saturday 9th September** in the **Church** and the **School Hall**. See the front page for more details. Entry forms were on last month's Beacon and are also available at the shop.

Booking the Village Hall

As noted above, the hall is closed for the whole of September and October. You can make bookings for November onwards.

The best way to check availability and make a provisional booking of the Village Hall is to use the interactive calendar at the bottom of the page on the community website; the address is **blackawtoncommunity.com/community-page/blackawton-village-hall**. This page also gives an overview of our facilities as well as a link to the Conditions of Hire. All bookings require a security deposit.

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

Village Hall **furniture, glasses, crockery and cutlery** hire: details of what is available are on the hall website. Requests should be made to **villagehall@blackawtoncommunity.com**.

Community Shop

from **Kate Purver**

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

Shop opening times

Shop:	Monday to Friday	8.30 am – 5.00 pm
	Saturday	9.00 am – 1.00 pm
	Sunday	10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Post Office: Monday to Saturday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm



The **Community Shop AGM** will be held on **Wednesday 27th September** at 7.30 pm, in the narthex in the church. All are welcome! to come and hear a summary of how and what the shop's been doing over the past year, plans for the future ... ask any questions you may have or raise issues, and (perhaps most importantly!) to join us for a drink and a chat. There will be wines from the shop to try, alongside some snacks, cheeses and deli items. After our successful 10th anniversary AGM party last year, we're aiming for a sociable evening this time too! An email with agenda will be sent out to shop association members, but the evening is open to all – please do come along.

Many thanks to the new volunteers who have kindly taken on vacant counter shifts and supplier runs; it's a great help. As we strive to keep making the shop ever better and nicer, while keeping up with cost-of-living and other pressures, we rely massively on volunteers. Day-to-day running and decisions are all ably dealt with by our busy manager, Helen – but the shop does also rely on committee members able to take on a bit of admin – to engage when needed with commercial and regulatory aspects, oversee finances, think about new ventures and so on. Some of our committee members have been involved for over a decade and would quite like to step down. **We would absolutely love some fresh faces!** It isn't loads of work; just periodically getting to grips with things (and we have about 8 meetings per year). If you might be up for joining us – please do get in touch (email above) – or come to the AGM!

Wine of the Month

Versare Merlot, Italy

£6.95 per bottle, or two for £13.00

This ruby red has typical, elegant aromas of violets, plums and red fruits. It has a fresh bouquet with delicate plum and red fruit flavours, good balance and structure, showcasing the passion and craftsmanship of Italian winemaking. Enjoy this with pasta, risotto or meat ravioli.



Meanwhile: as we settle back into September, a reminder that the shop is here for you, to meet as much demand as we can: basics or treats, fresh and frozen produce, eco-refills ... Let us know if there's something you'd like us to stock. You can put in regular orders with us, including organic bread from Hylsten bakery or delicious veg bags from Redhill market garden, just up the road. Or maybe we'll have an Indian summer? Spindle Wood Farm, near Halwell, are supplying us with both pasture-fed chicken (frozen whole or joints) and eco-charcoal. The charcoal is made from small trees which are taken from within sustainably-managed woodland to thin it, using horses rather than machinery so as not to damage the soil; whilst the chickens feed happily on fresh grass and insects alongside organic feed, in moveable outdoor pens with access to sunshine and shade. For feel-good barbecues!

Parish Council

The Thoughts of Chairman Rake

from **Simon Rake**

Sometimes the void shouts back!

Call me a grumpy old cynic, but I am not a keen fan of public consultation. Please don't get me wrong, I applaud the intent; it is essential that public organisations act transparently and in dialogue with the people they are meant to serve. When making important decisions, input from the people they will affect is vital. But too many of the consultations I see (and believe me, the Parish Council is notified of a rich and steady stream of such things) seem to be set up to get a desired answer, rather than to make a genuine attempt to find out what people think. What's worse, as recent and relatively local experience shows –

think Plymouth, think trees – is when the consulting body gets a clear steer from consultees, but then ignores it and does what it was going to do anyway.

All of this assumes that anyone responds to the consultation at all. Certainly our experience as a Parish Council has often been that attempts to find out what you think have been met with stony silence. Despite our best efforts, the lack of response can feel a bit as though we are shouting into the void. Sometimes, though – sometimes the void shouts back! (I apologise, gentle reader for casting you as “the void” in all this... but “if the cap fits” and all that.)

It was gratifying, therefore, to get so many responses to our recent consultation about the trees in the churchyard. If you have responded, thank you. Your responses were well informed, thoughtful and, in some cases, very comprehensive. Taken as a whole, they were also extremely contradictory! We have not yet done a formal tally, but my impression is that on each of the questions we asked – about the timing of felling the dying trees and the nature of their replacements – we got a rough balance of responses on either side of the issue. Perhaps more responses will push the balance in one direction or the other. More likely, as a Parish Council we will have to make a Judgment of Solomon and decide between the options. Given that the situation is pressing, but not yet urgent, I hope that we will then be able to put forward a concrete plan of action and see what the “void” has to say about that.

Straying only slightly from the theme of consultation, South Hams District Council will be carrying out a Housing Needs Survey in Blackawton and East Allington over the next few weeks. This is an important part of understanding the housing situation across the district and will help the Council plan for current and future housing supply. The survey is open to all residents and will open on 4 September and run to 13 October. All households should receive a letter about it around the opening date. There will also be a Drop In event in the Church on Thursday 28 September from 1pm to 3pm, or in East Allington Parish Hall from 3.30pm to 5.30pm on the same day – all welcome.

Housing is a key priority for the District Council and the more information we can gather, the better we will be able to shape our policies. So when you get the letter, please do respond – don’t just be a void and avoid it.

Blackawton Parish Council meeting

from **Annette Thom**, Parish Clerk

There was no Parish Council meeting in August. The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 5th September 2023** at 7.30 pm. As the Village Hall will be closed for works to the roof the meeting will be in **St Michael’s Church, Blackawton**. You are most welcome to join the meeting and to raise any issues which may be of concern to you.

Council contacts

Cllr Ruth Coe	01803 712131	ruth@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Sue Hadow	07306 007681	sue@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Charli Mardon		charli@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Chris Oughton, Vice chair	01803 302487	chriso@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Simon Rake, Chair	01803 861129	simon@blackawtoncommunity.com
Cllr Steve Thomas	01803 712840	steve@blackawtoncommunity.com
Annette Thom, Parish Clerk	01803 722417	parishclerk@blackawtoncommunity.com
Tree Warden, Bob Harvey	01803 712662	clyston23@gmail.com
Parish Lengthsman, Ian Cumberlidge	07773 691260	

Other contacts

South Hams Cllr Simon Rake	01803 861129	Cllr.Simon.Rake@southhams.gov.uk
South Hams District Council	01803 861234	customer.services@southhams.gov.uk
SHDC emergency out of hours	01803 867034	
Devon County Cllr Julian Brazil	01548 511109	julian.brazil@devon.gov.uk
	07970 971140	
Devon County Council	0845 155 1015	customer@devon.gov.uk
	0345 155 1015	
Police non-urgent reporting	101	

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

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

the Wider Community

Children's Hospice Fundraiser

from Sue Tweed

Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising events for Children's Hospice South West over the summer – it's all very much appreciated.

Our next event is in the Tea Hut in Royal Avenue Gardens, Dartmouth on **Thursday 21st September** from 10 am to 4 pm. We will be selling teas, sandwiches and homemade cakes, as well as children's toys and books, all in aid of CHSW. We currently hold a very good stock of these to last the rest of the year – thanks to everyone who has contributed!

If anyone would like to help us in the tea hut or on the sales table, please contact Sue Tweed on **07955 197721** or email **tweed833@btinternet.com**.

Thank you on behalf of Children's Hospice South West – making the most of short and precious lives.

The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming & District

from Peter Hales

Where friendliness matters above all else.

The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming and District has been in existence since 1984. We meet fortnightly on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The meetings start at 10.30 am with coffee followed by a speaker at 11.00 am and on the first meeting of the month we also have lunch at 12.30 pm.

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

Our meetings in September are:

Wednesday 13th lunch Phil Badcott: Sir Walter Raleigh

Wednesday 27th coffee Jim Redman: Isambard Kingdom Brunel in Devon

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 October edition is **Thursday 21st September**.

If you would like to make a donation, please put **Beacon** on the outside of the envelope and put it in the Church's donation box beside the visitors book, or drop it off at 1, The Cross, Park Lane. Please note that cheques must be payable to **Blackawton Parish Church**. Thank you.

Andrew Morrow

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for prices and other details



Parish Diary

September 2023

Friday 1st	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Tuesday 5th	7.30 pm	Blackawton Parish Council meeting	Church
Wednesday 6th	9.00 am	Deadline for Village Show entries	Heyes, Main Street
	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to The Willows via Totnes	Bus shelter
Friday 8th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 9th	2.30 pm	Blackawton Horticultural Show	Church and School Hall
Friday 15th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Wednesday 20th	10.30 am	Blackawton WI meeting	Sportsmans Arms
Thursday 21st	10.00 am	Children's Hospice South West fundraiser	Royal Avenue Gardens, Dartmouth
		Deadline for October Beacon	
Friday 22nd	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
	6.30 pm	South Pool Pony Club Bingo	Moreleigh Village Hall
Tuesday 26th	11.55 am	Mobile library	Bus shelter
Wednesday 27th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Newton Abbot via Totnes	Bus shelter
	7.30 pm	Community Shop AGM	Church
Thursday 28th	1.00 pm	Housing Needs Survey drop-in	Church
Friday 29th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter