



Blackawton Beacon

September 2026

published jointly by the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council



Please complete the

Wind Turbine survey

at the end of this Beacon, and hand it in to the Village Shop

Blackawton Horticultural Show



Saturday 12th September

2.30 pm in the Village Hall

Prize-giving at 4.00 pm

Please stage your entries by 10.00 am

The Schedule with entry form was attached to the July Beacon, but if you need (another) one, there are spares in the Community Shop and on the Village Hall website. Or email **kate.janman@gmail.com** and we'll send you a copy.

Please have a look at the schedule and see what you might enter - there are some changes from last year and it's not only gardening and cookery! It's free to enter and more entries make a better show.

Entry forms must be in by **9.00 am on Wednesday 9th September**. Please take them to Laura Howell at Heyes, Main Street, TQ9 7BG - next-door-but-one to the shop. You can use any piece of paper if you have more than one person entering from one household.



St Michael's Church

Services for September

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>
Sunday 6th	9.30 am	Holy Communion & Baptism
Sunday 13th	9.30 am	Breakfast Church
Sunday 20th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 27th	9.30 am	Pet Service

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.**

On **Wednesday 2nd September** we will be in the Royal Avenue Gardens, Dartmouth for a fundraiser - tea, coffee, sandwiches and cakes from the tea hut and bric-a-brac and book stalls.

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

Reader's Corner

from **Peter Barker**

September's now misleading (Latin septem = seven) name derives from the earliest Roman calendar in which March was the first month, before the addition of January and February. September's message also seems a little confused. For most of my life it has marked the start of a new academic year. Thus it is associated with the excitement and aspiration of new beginnings and challenges. That's September in our village too: the visitors have (mostly) gone and 'normal' life gears up again.

But September is also the beginning of meteorological autumn, 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', a time perhaps for some refreshing rain (as well as the equinoctial gales). Autumn offers its own beauty for our appreciation, an opportunity for gratitude for so much, and a challenge to ensure that our own lives too are fruitful in their harvest time. But autumn brings with it as well an inescapable note of decline and decay, of diminishing daylight and the ineluctable march of time. Not least for those of us in the autumn of our years, the season is a warning to spare a serious thought for the really big questions of life and death.

Most experts will tell you that Tennyson wrote his poem Crossing the Bar on the Isle of Wight, referencing the tidal sluice through the Needles Channel. But we know he visited Salcombe and the infamous bar across the Salcombe estuary has to me long seemed a more precise and evocative inspiration for the poem. Rather than autumn, it is the evening falling tide which Tennyson uses as a picture for the 'ebb' of human life and the inevitable, final journey which one day will take us each across the 'bar' of death.

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea.
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.
Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

Tennyson's language may not be explicit, but for me the Christian message is very clear. The waters may be 'dark', but Jesus Christ is the 'Pilot' who knows the way, the 'Pilot' for now unseen but ever present, in whom I have put my trust, the 'Pilot' whom after death I shall know 'face to face'.

Wishing you a fruitful, and a thoughtful September, and the joy of having your Pilot on board.

Village Life

Community Library

from **Chris Hamilton**

Thank you to everyone who has donated books to our library, which is situated at the back of the church. It is available every day and most times. I am aware that some people didn't know it was there.

If you have books you no longer want please drop them into the church. The books need to be relatively clean and not falling apart (yes someone did donate a book that was falling apart). We have also been given children's books and non fiction. Unfortunately we cannot accommodate these; space is limited.

Come and have browse we have a sofa for people who just want to read.

Blackawton WI

from **Sandra Tope**

What a wonderful summer we have had! Although as is typical for us, the first lot of rain for quite some time came on the day of our picnic held at the home of Sarah Green. We were undeterred though, and a lovely afternoon was had by all who attended, with the rain clearing before we met. As it was much needed we weren't complaining, we just enjoyed the view of the River Dart and had several games of Boules.

Earlier in the month a few members caught the ferry out to Dartmouth Castle and then enjoyed a leisurely walk back to the town, and had lunch sat in Bayards Cove. The views were stunning, and the Royal Navy helicopter flying up and down the river just added to the entertainment.

Our September meeting will be on Wednesday September 16th, in Blackawton Village Hall at 10.30 am. Our speaker will be a representative of Dartmouth Caring, giving us an explanation of the services they offer. As well as the Bloom of the Month, the competition is for a shawl. Everyone is welcome!

To the members who took a seed potato earlier in the year, it will be time to dig them up and count/weigh the results. It is always interesting to see the differing results depending on how and where they were grown. And then you get to take them home and eat them!

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

Harvest and Halloween at the Allotment

from **Jill Kelly**

Halloween Trail at the Allotments on **28th October**, for children and their families.

Harvest Soup Lunch at the Village Hall on **31st October** for everyone.

Look out for more details in the next Beacon and save the dates in your calendar.

Allotments Community Events: contact allotments@blackawtoncommunity.com.

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!

The following month we are planning to go over to The Devon Rural archive at Shilstone, on the way to Modbury, with an introduction to the resources they hold with the archivist Jackie. Provisional date of November 5th in the afternoon. More details a bit nearer the time .

Save Our Pub

from the **Save Our Pub team**

Community Meeting

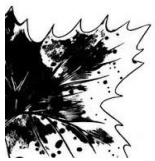
The Save Our Pub team are planning a community meeting in the Village Hall to discuss the future of The George Inn. When the date and time have been confirmed, details will be shared on the website (URL at the bottom of this article), Facebook and Instagram pages, with our email list, and via posters across the village. Please keep an eye out!

At this meeting the Save Our Pub team plan to share an update on the progress they have made with their research and discussions with Barchester (current owners), as well as outlining the next steps towards potentially reopening the pub. This will be followed by an open forum, giving everyone the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the way forward.

We're also looking for committed volunteers to come forward and help drive the reopening of the pub and establish a Community Benefit Society. Let's bring our beloved pub back to life! Please keep an eye out for further information.

www.saveourpubblackawton.co.uk

georgeinncommunity@gmail.com



Blackawton Ball - save the date!

The Blackawton Ball will be held on **Saturday 17th October** in Blackawton Village Hall. Music, food and dancing in aid of **Save Our Pub** and **Blackawton Fireworks**. More details next month.

Sustainable Blackawton

from **Ruth Coe**

Our next meeting is at 6.00 pm on **Tuesday 15th September** in the Forest School classroom at Blackawton Primary School. New members are very welcome. Contact douglasnoble@icloud.com if you want to find out more.

Please also save the date of **Sunday 1st November** when there will be a screening of the National Emergency Briefing Film, from 4.00 pm in the Village Hall. More details to follow.

Is there anyone out there willing to help us with Social Media or Website experience? Sustainable Blackawton does have a section within the blackawtoncommunity.com website but this has languished recently with no updates since 2023!

Trip to Bude, North Cornwall

Would you like to learn more about Renewable Energy, specifically about Wind Power?

Calling all those that are interested - please join us on a bus trip to North Cornwall to see a 1megawatt EWT DW61 wind turbine. Leaving at 9.30 am on Saturday 12th September, from Holywell Stores in a Tally Ho bus, we will head to Otterham to see the wind turbine up close, to listen and to look. We'll be joined by the manufacturer EWT and the landowner where we can ask questions and find out more. We'll have lunch at the local village hall in Otterham and head home in the late afternoon.

Free event funded by the South West Net Zero Hub, for Devon Energy Collective CIC, but please sign up for a ticket by 5th September 2026: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wind-turbine-day-trip-tickets, or contact Als Parker on **07975 905540** or als@greenstoker.co.uk. Please let us know if you would like to come but have any special requests: info@devonenergycic.com.

This is an opportunity to learn how to improve the future for local communities – if you have concerns or worries about the current project in Blackawton **please, please** take this opportunity to learn more and have your questions answered. It is imperative that everyone understands what is at stake, and how we can mitigate the impact of climate change to the huge benefit of everyone in this community.

Community owned wind power

Every edition of our monthly Parish Newsletter for over a year now has carried some information about the generation of clean electricity from the power of the wind, attempting to dispel “myths”, counteract untruths, share news of the many potential benefits that may accrue (especially when the generation is owned by the community).

The UK remains dangerously underprepared for climate change consequences, for its impact on Health & Wellbeing, threat to National Security, Food supply, Energy security, threats to our infrastructure (including buckled rails!), and (given the increase, the length and severity of recent heat waves) to our health and wellbeing, and potential for Economic collapse. To help spread the word about this “National

Emergency” we will show a film in Blackawton Village Hall in November highlighting the dangers and, more importantly, suggesting a way to mitigate the risks. The demand for clean energy will only increase with the electrification of transport, home heating **and** cooling, never mind data centres! Local actions accumulate, **will** make a difference and could help to avoid the most severe consequences of climate change.

Community owned electricity generation is more than just a source of clean energy. It is a catalyst for transformative change, generating funds for local projects and people, putting power back into local hands, cutting carbon emissions, assisting with balancing the national grid power supply and giving income diversification to local landowners and businesses, with enhanced training and employment prospects for local residents (which in turn also keeps funds in the local economy).

The feasibility study that commenced earlier this year, after a successful grant application to fund that study, has progressed to the stage of inviting a few local landowners of potentially viable sites to respond as to whether they may be willing to host wind power technology. Their responses are eagerly awaited.

Recent surveys have found that opposition to onshore wind has significantly declined since the moratorium was lifted a few years ago. However, there will still be folk with concerns about visual impact (a subjective view!), noise, wildlife impact and worry that any “profit” may not be shared equally or reach those that most need help. These concerns must be addressed. Community engagement started long ago, and continues, with our newsletter articles, but as this project continues and more details are known then that will continue. As previously stated this engagement is **absolutely** vital if this project is to deliver all the benefits it is capable of.

As soon as we have positive news on siting, or sizing of a turbine, to share with parishioners then a community meeting is planned. This will offer parishioners the opportunity to share views, learn more about the project and give us some idea of the level of support (or otherwise!) within the community. These opinions/support matter. Please look out for details in the Beacon, on Social Media and posters around the Parish. In the meantime, if you have concerns, ideas or anything else relevant to share, even just “I am supportive” or “I hate wind turbines”, please do e-mail: **ruth@blackawtoncommunity.com** or ‘phone for a chat **07845 598658** we really, really do want to hear from you – however you feel about this idea! Thank you to those three residents that have already responded, we very much appreciate your feedback. Also sign up for the visit to see a turbine in action in Cornwall on 12th September.

It is imperative, absolutely necessary, that **all** parishioners have the opportunity to contribute their concerns, and share ideas for distributing benefits that will eventually be available to improve lives and opportunities here in Blackawton parish, whilst understanding and appreciating the crisis we are facing. Please engage!

Community Composting of garden material

Please do not dump stuff outside of Sundays 10.00 – 12.00!

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@ringandrider.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 September:

Wednesday 2nd	The Willows, Torquay via Totnes
Friday 4th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 11th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 18th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Friday 25th	Dartmouth via Dittisham
Wednesday 30th	Newton Abbot via Totnes

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**.

Treen

from **Bob Harvey**

“The vampires of the sylvan world !” The words of Devon's Sir Harry Studholme opening the national Grey Squirrel Summit. Damage by grey squirrels costs the forestry industry nearly £40 million every year and makes it unviable for foresters to grow many of our traditional hardwood timber trees. It takes 150 years to grow good oak timber but without continuous labour-intensive squirrel control the final income is only one tenth of the potential. If a farmer loses an arable crop he can replace it one year later.

Susceptibility to bark-stripping is linked to the amino acids in the bark which makes wild cherry, lime and English walnut highly resistant, but American walnut, sycamore, oak, beech and sweet chestnut are highly susceptible. Ash has good resistance but has been decimated by disease. Genetic control is being trialled whereby offspring are all single sex making future breeding impossible, and we pray for more pine martens and goshawks which provide wonderful natural control.

Squirrels, like rabbits, are good to eat, are served in some restaurants, and can be bought pre-packaged. Check the label to ensure it states “This product may contain nuts.”!

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



We have personnel changes once again at the shop! We're saying goodbye to Sue as our manager and welcoming Emilia to the role. Sue is returning to her willow business after 8 months capably steering the ship of shop – during that time she has succeeded in getting it back on a much steadier course, and we're hugely grateful. We're pleased too that she's set to continue to share her expertise in a reduced role as cover manager – replacing Aly who has been covering Fridays, and who's also moving on. We're confident that Emilia, ably assisted by Sue, will continue to chart a fine course!

As we head back into the school year we have a host of healthy snacks to pop in lunch-boxes – including a new range of 'Bob Snail' no-added-sugar, 100%-fruit rolls (and we have fresh fruit too of course!)

Wines of the month

Vina Moana Pictor Sauvignon Blanc, Chile

£7.29 (usual price £7.90)

This crisp, refreshing wine is easy to drink and wonderfully versatile. With a glowing pale yellow hue, its bouquet is vibrant lime and grapefruit with subtle floral accents. Bright citrus notes on the palate, a lively acidity and clean finish - it goes well with white meats, grilled fish or light pasta dishes, or indeed is delightful on its own!

Jack Rabbit Pinot Grigio, Italy

£7.99 (reduced from £8.50)

While summer still lingers, we've chosen one last rosé for you to enjoy. This wine is packed with floral aromas and soft berry flavours. Crisp, clean and refreshing, it's ideal for informal get-togethers, picnics, or simply unwinding with a chilled glass in your hand. It pairs brilliantly with light seafood, simple poultry dishes, fresh green salads, or mild soft cheeses.



We are still appealing for **volunteers!** The shop is a friendly, relaxed environment with a great team of lovely people - so why not get involved? All training will be given, you won't have to work alone - support is always available from our managers and other wonderful volunteers. If you're an early riser, we'd hugely appreciate help with the opening-up shift, 7.30 - 9.00 am – when we see in the bread delivery, price and

display it, check dates and fridges and set things up for the day. Or if you'd prefer to be more sociable, serving on the till during opening hours is great for meeting people and having a chat!

Please get in touch ... thank you!

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**



Village Hall

September events

Blackawton Horticultural Show Saturday 12th September, 2.30 pm

Entries must be staged between 8.00 am and 10.00 am.

Open for viewing and refreshments 2.30 pm, prize-giving 4.00 pm.

Parish Council Meeting Monday 14th September, 7.30 - 10.30 pm

Blackawton WI Meeting Wednesday 16th September, 10.30 - 12.30 am

Willow Experience

with Sue Radford

Saturday 19th September, 2.00 - 4.30 pm

Book here: www.craftcourses.com/courses/willow-bird-feeder-workshop-4.

Community Shop AGM

Monday 28th September, 6.30 - 9.30 pm

Hatha Yoga

Wednesdays 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th, 9.15 to 10.15 am

Chair Yoga

Wednesdays 9th, 23rd and 30th, 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 those above and the morning of Sunday 6th.

Booking the Village Hall

The best way to check availability and make a provisional booking of the Village Hall is to use the interactive calendar at the bottom of the page on the community website **blackawtoncommunity.com/community-page/blackawton-village-hall**. This page also gives an overview of our facilities and hire rates for various types of event, as well as a link to the Conditions of Hire. If you don't have internet access, please fill in a booking form (available in the shop or the notice board next to the hall door) and drop it into the post box on the wall of the hall. The post box is checked weekly.

Please don't make any commitments until you receive confirmation that it has been accepted. Should an election be called, Thursday bookings are subject to cancellation with full refund of any hall fees already paid. All bookings require a security deposit.

Hirers please remember that time to set up and clear down must be included in your booking request as there may be another event immediately before and/or after your booking. Overrunning will result in part or all of your security deposit being withheld to cover refunds to the additional time and any refunds that have to be issued to other hirers if their booking is affected. The Conditions of Hire that you agree to when

requesting the booking states that all rubbish must be removed from the hall and the hall left clean and tidy, please make sure that everyone involved in running your event knows and understands this. Due to these conditions being ignored recently, a minimum of £20 of your deposit will be retained if any rubbish is left and this will increase if the hall is not left clean and tidy, to cover extra cleaning costs.

Parish Council

The Thoughts of Chairman Rake

from **Simon Rake**

The not-so-secret secret is out

As you may have seen in the news, the South Hams has been identified in a national survey as the second friendliest place to live in England (out of 296 areas and second only to Scilly), with our neighbours in West Devon coming in third.

Now, of course, we are subjected to a slew of similar headlines along the lines of “Bideford voted third best place in UK for dog walkers” or some such. Often they turn out to be the result of a bored journalist asking three people where they like to walk their dogs, or little more than clickbait gateways to websites selling dog products or houses in Bideford. This time, though, there seems to be a little more substance behind the headline. The survey is being run by Nuffield College and the University of Oxford (and runs to the end of August if you want to take part: national-conversation.ox.ac.uk), so for once I am setting aside some of my usual scepticism about the results.

Maybe this is just confirmation bias: I am inclined to believe the survey because I already think it is right. This really is a very friendly place to live. The South Hams’ headline score of 97 out of 100 is impressive enough, but some of the underlying figures are more interesting still: 68.6% say many of their neighbours can be trusted; 85.8% are proud to live in their local area; 81.7% chat to their neighbours at least monthly; and 30.5% volunteer at least once a month — almost twice the national average of 16.5%. Compared with other areas, each of these gives the South Hams a near-perfect score of 99/100. We also do much better than the national average for taking part in civic life and for people from different backgrounds getting on well. Curiously, given the above, our weakest score is for feeling that we belong to our neighbourhood — although even there we score 70.3% against a national 62.1%.

For me, though, the figure that really leaps out is the one for loneliness. That 3.4% of people report feeling lonely often or always shows there is still work to be done, but this is only just over half the national average of 6.6%, suggesting that our local communities are getting a lot right. Loneliness is a scourge on modern society: not only does it diminish the quality of people’s lives, but social isolation is associated with a significantly increased risk of premature death — an effect that some studies have compared with smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

Looking beyond the figures, the survey underscores just how active and interactive our communities are. That doesn’t happen by accident: it comes from people talking to their neighbours, joining things, volunteering and looking out for one another. Confirmation bias perhaps, but who doesn’t like having a good thing confirmed? Oh, and watch out, Scilly — we’re coming for you next time.

Blackawton Parish Council meeting

from **Annette Thom**

There was no Parish Council meeting in August. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall on **Monday 14th September** 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 Benzies	07583 599452	(& Bob Harvey)

Other contacts

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

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

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

CHSW Autumn Fair

from **Ann Green**

Join us for our next fundraiser for Children's Hospice South West which is in the Royal Avenue Gardens, Dartmouth on **Tuesday 22nd September** between 10 am – 4 pm. Browse the stalls of toys and children's books, try your luck on the tombola and enjoy homemade refreshments from the tea hut.

We would like to thank Stephen Levy, a staunch supporter, for once more running a successful raffle through Freeborn Estate Agents and raising £1000. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets.

The Dartmouth and District Friends Group raise money for CHSW which has three hospices within the South West for children with life limiting conditions and also provides care and support for their family and carers. There is a recognition that siblings may struggle too and so there are activities and services aimed just at them.

We run events throughout the year and extend a warm welcome to new volunteers. Drop in for an informal chat at the Avenue Gardens event or contact Sue Tweed, email **tweed833@btinternet.com**.

Dartmouth Caring

from **April Faulkner**

We are delighted to announce that Dartmouth Caring has been awarded £67,541 over two years through the Macmillan CARE Grants Programme for our cancer and palliative care project.

The project will support people living with cancer or receiving palliative care, along with their carers, to feel informed, supported and actively involved in decisions about their treatment. It will ensure that each person's individual wishes, circumstances and what matters most to them remain central to every stage of their care. Working in partnership with Dartmouth Medical Practice, District Nursing teams, Oncology and Palliative Care services at Torbay and Derriford, as well as patients, carers and the wider community, the project aims to strengthen communication between services, reduce the inequalities faced by those living in rural areas and provide more coordinated, personalised support.

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 October edition is **Sunday 20th 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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Mike McInerney BA ALCM PhD FHEA
25 years' experience

07375 365228

www.mikemcinerney.com

Lessons begin from 14th September



COPPER TOPS

TREE SURGERY & LANDSCAPING

We offer expert services in:

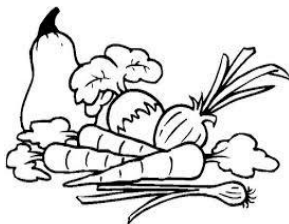
- All aspects of tree surgery
- Garden clearances
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- Hedge trimming & strimming
- Landscape, design and build
- Groundworks
- Fencing, decking and patios

For enquires or a free quote, call Matt:

07782 349069

01803 712632

www.coppertopstreesurgery.co.uk



Parish Diary

September 2026

Wednesday 2nd	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to The Willows via Totnes Blackawton Church fundraiser	Bus shelter Royal Avenue Gardens, Dartmouth
Friday 4th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Sunday 6th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
Wednesday 9th	9.15 am	Hatha Yoga	Village Hall
	10.30 am	Chair Yoga	Village Hall
Friday 11th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 12th	9.30 am	Visit to wind turbine	Bude
	2.30 pm	Blackawton Horticultural Show	Village Hall
Sunday 13th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
Monday 14th	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall
Tuesday 15th	6.00 pm	Sustainable Blackawton meeting	Forest School
Wednesday 16th	9.15 am	Hatha Yoga	Village Hall
	10.30 am	Blackawton WI meeting	Village Hall
Friday 18th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Saturday 19th	2.00 pm	Willow Experience with Sue Radford	Village Hall
Sunday 20th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material Beacon deadline for October edition	Village Hall
Tuesday 22nd	10.00 am	Children's Hospice South West fundraiser	Royal Avenue Gardens, Dartmouth
Wednesday 23rd	9.15 am	Hatha Yoga	Village Hall
	10.30 am	Chair Yoga	Village Hall
Friday 25th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Dartmouth	Bus shelter
Sunday 27th	10.00 am	Community composting of garden material	Village Hall
Monday 28th	6.30 pm	Community Shop AGM	Village Hall
Wednesday 30th	9.30 am	West Dart Bus to Newton Abbot via Totnes	Bus shelter
	9.15 am	Hatha Yoga	Village Hall
	10.30 am	Chair Yoga	Village Hall

October 2026

Friday 2nd	7.30 pm	Blackawton & Strete History Group talk	Church
Saturday 17th	6.15 pm	Blackawton Ball	Village Hall
Wednesday 28th		Halloween Trail for children and families	Allotments
Saturday 31st		Allotments harvest soup lunch	Village Hall

Blackawton Parish Council
Established 1894

Survey to discover local attitudes towards community wind energy

Please help us understand opinion regarding community owned wind turbines.
Your feedback, and our understanding local feeling, are vital.

The survey is anonymous. Please don't include names, contact details, or any other information about an identifiable person.

1. What is your primary relationship with the Blackawton community?

Long-term Resident (10+ years)

Recent Resident (less than 10 years)

Local Business Owner/Employee

Property Owner (non-resident)

Other (Please specify) _____

2. In which area of Blackawton is your primary relationship? Village or Rural _____

3. How much knowledge would you say you have about community owned wind turbines?

Little/no knowledge 1 2 3 4 5 Very knowledgeable

4. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about wind energy:

1 Strongly Disagree 2 Disagree 3 Neutral 4 Agree 5 Strongly Agree

___ Wind energy is a reliable source of energy

___ The Government should invest in more wind turbines

___ Wind turbines create a positive impact on the local environment

___ Wind turbines are visually pleasing

___ Wind turbines provide local economic benefits

___ Wind turbines create noise pollution

___ Wind turbines provide new job opportunities locally

5. How concerned are you about the following potential impacts of community owned wind turbines?

1 Not very 2 Slightly 3 Moderately 4 Very 5 Extremely Concerned

___ Visual Impact (Aesthetics/Landscape view)

___ Noise Pollution (Sound produced by turbines)

___ Impact on Wildlife (e.g., birds, bats)

___ Property Value Decrease

___ Impact on Local Tourism

___ Other concerns

6. What factors are important to you about renewable energy? (Tick as many/as few as you like)

___ Community ownership i.e. a wind turbine 100% owned by a local community group

___ Community benefit funds

___ Reducing dependence on imported energy

___ Positive impact on climate change

___ Other: _____

7. How do you feel about a community wind turbine operating locally? (1-negative 5-positive)

1 2 3 4 5

8. If a wind turbine were proposed locally, how far from you would you consider acceptable?

<1km 2-5km 5-10km >10km No distance is acceptable

P.T.O.

9. Which community benefits of wind energy are most important to you? (Tick all that apply)

Reduction of carbon emissions ____
Increased energy independence/security ____
Creation of local jobs during construction and operation ____
Community ownership ____
Revenue for local landowners/community benefit funds ____
Lower electricity costs ____

10. Do you feel local communities are adequately involved in the planning and decision-making process for any new wind project?

Yes, completely ____ Partially ____ No, not at all ____ I don't know ____

The following questions will help us 'broadly' identify who we are and aren't engaging with, and help shape future engagement.

11. What is your age range?

Under 18 18-25 25-50 50-70 70+ Prefer not to say

12. How do you describe yourself?

Male Female Non-binary Other Prefer not to say

13. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Secondary school High school diploma College Foundation degree
Bachelor's degree Post or professional degree/training Other Prefer not to say

14. What is your current employment status?

Employed Self-employed Not working Student Retired Other

15. What is your annual household income?

<£25,000 £25,000-£50,000 £50,000-£100,000 >£100,000 Prefer not to say

If you have any further comments or suggestions regarding community engagement or wind energy, we would love to hear your thoughts here please:

Questions?

Please contact Parish Councillor Ruth Coe: 07845598658 or ruth@blackawtoncommunity.com

Please return completed surveys to the Blackawton Community Shop