

BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

September was a sad month with the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the village honoured her with the flag at half mast and the tolling of the muffled bells. The book of Condolence remains in the Church for anyone still wishing to sign it.

Be sure to read this month's edition as there are some excellent write-ups by our resident journalist, Richard Jinman.

Contributions for the November edition: 23rd October

Email: carolehartnell@googlemail.com.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARISH COUNCIL

12th September 2022 Parish Council Draft Minutes

Present: Mr Simon Hoar, Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mr Philip Sketchley, Mr Steve Street, Mr Graham Hughes, Mrs Melinda Terleske, Mr Kevin Messenger (SSDC), Mr Henry Hobhouse (SSDC), Mr Mike Lewis (SSCC) & Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk).

Black ties or armbands were worn out of respect for her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and a one minute silence was held.

Apologies: Mr Damien Pick

- 1) Minutes of the Previous Meeting 11th July 2022 to be agreed & signed.
- 2) Matters Arising
 - i) Static property in Dilkes Lane, enquiry currently with South Somerset Enforcement Officer for action. Simon Hoar requested approach to Neil Waddleton, Service Delivery Team Leader, SSDC. Enforcement officer viewed wrong property – due to see correct premises shortly.
 - ii) 2 temporary traffic monitors to ascertain extent of speeding in and around the village, traffic devices currently on order, awaiting delivery. Simon Hoar to chase.
Andy Barron from highways has agreed to put up monitors on Church St and Main St in Sept at no charge due to the delay in actioning them.

- iii) Complaint received re treatment of confidential planning breach allegation in Baker Street. It was decided that parish council had acted properly and no breach of confidentiality had occurred. Chairman to reply to complainant.
- iv) Kimi's Retreat, query re land usage, listed as dog exercise field, used for overflow parking at Glastonbury, legality of land usage.
Referred to planning.
- v) Blocked Ditch / Pipe Under Road – The Dairy House, Foddington Rd, Babcary, TA11 7EJ. A camera investigation is to be undertaken prior to full repair.

Finance

Capital Reserve Account stands at £20,676.46. Current Account Balance is £50. New signatories all obtained except for Cllr Hughes - Chairman to investigate.

Stationary Costs: Parish clerk- Ink Cartridge £28.45, punched pockets £2.50 & binders £3.00 total £33.95. Book of Condolences £62.99 (£33.95 plus £62.99 = £96.94 to Jasmine Tucker). Verandah costs cheque for £5,549.32 payable to Babcary Playing Field Committee, being half the total net costs of £11,098 to be shared between the two committees. Verandah French windows to be installed before October meeting!

3) Planning Consultations

- i) APPLICATION NO. 22/00465/LBC APPLICANT Olive Farm, Les Rochettes Olive Farm Lane Babcary Somerton Somerset TA11 7EJ. Withdrawn
- ii) Reference 22/00726/FUL Land Adjoining Dove Cottage Formerly Shurlock Row North Street Babcary, awaiting decision.
- iii) Ash View ENF/2022/0014 potential planning breach at Ash view Farm. There is a building at the front of the property that has been erected with what appears to be no planning permissions

4) Correspondence

- i) Buckingham Palace has issued a statement today, (08/09/2022) which confirmed that Her Majesty The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon. As per the protocol, Friday 9 September 2022 marks D-Day. The National Proclamation will take place on Saturday 10 September. Please do not progress any Local Proclamations until Sunday 11 September as the National Proclamation must take place first.
- ii) Request received to note that speeding is most definitely is a bad as ever on Church Street, (addressed in Maters Arising ii).
- iii) Chairs Award, Chair of Somerset County Council, is holding an annual award ceremony for Service to the Community on Friday 17th February 2023 and invites nominations using the enclosed nomination form. The event will be held at Taunton Rugby Football Club, Hyde Lane, Bathpool, Taunton, TA2 8BU, from 6.00 pm – 10.00 pm. A response was discussed. Clerk to obtain forms and Chairman to action.
- iv) Assistant Highway Manager, John Nicholson, at present there is no sole named persons to cover my 'Parish' areas, but my two AHSM colleagues in the South Somerset Area office will be monitoring the correspondence and enquiries during the period between 1st Sept to 30th Dec , there remains two SCC Superintendents who inspect the network in response to emailed highway concerns and online reports.

- v) Warm Hubs, the cost of living crisis, whilst it is very early days SSDC are starting to look at are Warm Hubs – the opening up of village halls, community centres etc where vulnerable members of the community can come to a warm space, have hot food and company without worrying about heating their home or if they will be able to eat. If you would like to help contact David Crisfield, Specialist Communities, SSDC.

The Parish Council ask that everyone keep an eye on their neighbours as usual in case anyone needs help. Plans may be needed for winter power cuts.

- vi) As we approach the winter season, it is time to consider preparedness for ice and snow this winter. I am writing to request your assistance, Grit Bins, locations & salt level.

Grit bins thought to be OK but chairman to check

Council Tax Reduction Scheme, the Council Tax Reduction scheme impacts on the Council Tax base for all the precepting authorities. The existing four district authorities in Somerset all currently run different Council Tax Reduction schemes. Consequently, in preparation for the new single council on 1 April 2023 we need to align to a single scheme. The consultation exercise seeks view on these proposals. If you would like to submit a response the consultation can be accessed via Somerset

- vii) Council - Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2023/24 : Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2023/24 Consultation (smartsurvey.co.uk)
- viii) Somerset Day 2023, the second weekend in May next year Somerset Day weekend is an opportunity to celebrate the ‘gathering together of all the people of Somerset’ responses to my Personal Assistant, Becky Angle – becky.angle@somerset.gov.uk by Friday 30th September with ideas to make Somerset Day special in your community. Mike Best County Hall.
- ix) Catch The Bus! Cuts across the County have prompted militant action! Cost of living crisis is encouraging people to go back to the bus service, use it or loose it! Message somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com for more information.
- x) Letter received re alleged planning breach in Baker Street. Case referred to SSDC planning enforcement. See matters arising
- xi) Somerset’s Public Health Update, preparing for winter, flu and covid vaccinations now available for those with lowered immunity, check with your own GP. Know Your Numbers Week, blood pressure monitoring, kits available to take your own blood pressure at home on loan from your library!

5) Any Other Business

- i) Wessex Superfast Broadband to be installed at the Hut – but delayed.
- ii) The Parish Council thanked Mr. Phil Sketchley for his work getting the parish website sorted out and Babcary newsletters onto The Babcary website.
- iii) Yeovil Hospital Trust and Somerset Foundation trust to combine in April next year, look on line to become member of the Integrated Care Board.
The trust is culpable for the social care of both adults and children. It should be noted that only GP’s will remain separate.
Become a governor and help them oversee their changes.
- iv) Concerns raised re antisocial Playing Field users, speed of cars going in and out of the facilities
- v) Dry weather has caused land shrinkage, pipes left in The Playing Field after removal of climbing frame protruding out of ground, posing a safety threat.
- vi) Henry Hobhouse drew attention to out of county use of our local care homes, Government changes allowing movement between different areas has meant care homes being taken advantage of for lower costs.

- vii) Defibrillator located in the phone box next to Baker Street/Main Street bus stop, in need of battery change and general cleaning of the phone box (removal of debris in particular arachnids!). Chairman to check.
- viii) Mike Lewis raised concerns on local flooding, responsibility for brooks lying with District Council, whereas Rivers are the responsibility of The Environment Agency, special concerns mentioned due to extreme weather changes and reduced rainwater, impacting on vegetation regrowth.
Recommended email Mike Staunton at The Environment Agency, (email address requested from Mike Lewis).

Date & Time of Next Meeting: Monday 10th October 2022 8pm in the Hut.

Speed monitors

In response to continued problems with vehicles speeding through the village the eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed two small black boxes in Main Street and Church Street. These are monitoring all vehicles, in both directions, recording time, speed and length of vehicle 24/7 for a few weeks so that we have some hard evidence on which to base future action to curb speeds.

SIH

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Services

Sunday	2 nd Oct	10.30	Alford	Family service	
Sunday	9 th Oct	10.30	N.Barrow	Communion	
Sunday	16 th Oct	10.30	Lovington	matins	
Sunday	23 rd Oct	10.30	S.Barrow	communion	
Sunday	30 th Oct	10.30	Alford	communion	
Sunday	6th Nov	10.30	Babcary	Family service	

Church Rotas

	Cleaning	Flowers	Coffee	Sidesmen
2 nd October	Nikki & Karen	Jo		
9 th October	Rita & Jenny	Teresa		
16 th October	Simon & Shirley	Mary		
23 rd October	Janet & Lucy	Elisabeth		
30 th October	Sarah & Sarah	Judy H		
6 th November	Elisabeth & Mary	Su	TBA	Rory & Simon

Six Pilgrims Race Night: Saturday 22nd October 7 for 7.30 at North Barrow Village Hall

This promises to be a fantastic evening of fun for everyone, young and old. Brue Valley Rotary are coming along to “run” a series of horse races. They manage the bets and then screen each of the races (which are all being sponsored by local businesses). A ploughman’s supper is included in the ticket price and there will be a bar running throughout the evening. Tickets £5 for adults and £2.50 for children. Email sihoar@yahoo.co.uk to reserve and book tickets.

Book of Condolence

There is a Babcary Book of Condolence for HM Queen Elizabeth II in the church for everyone to sign. Please drop into the church anytime and record your name and thoughts in the book. It’s a fantastic record for our successors.

SIH

PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Bonfire night

Saturday 5th November. A huge bonfire, extra spectacular fireworks, hog roast & hot dogs and a big bar all for: £5 adults and £2 children. Gates open at 6pm, fireworks at 7pm. Due to pressure on car parking on the playing field please walk in if you are reasonably close.

Village Cricket

The playing field committee are now considering next steps, if any, in the refurbishment of the cricket net in the far corner of the playing field (and then possibly the wicket) with a view to reviving village cricket in Babcary.

Whilst the benefit of having a place for children and adults to practice their batting and bowling over the summer months is easy to see, it does come at a cost.

In order to gauge interest on this topic, please can you email w.m.pitt@icloud.com if you would make use of such a facility. If there is sufficient interest then this is a positive step.

Will Pitt
07496 494651

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Harvest Supper such a success; to those of you who made apple pies or donated raffle prizes; to Dave Paull for his fantastic Auction; to those who helped erect or dismantle the marquees; to Nikki and her amazing musical entertainment team; and to those who helped with the catering, especially Emma Baber and Matthew Crofts.

The Raffle prize winners were Isla Hewson, Peter Caldwell, James Baber, Rita Kingston, Judy Herten, Hollie Cuff, Teresa Gilbert, Matthew Crofts, Lindsay Caldwell, Edith c/o Judy Jackson, Jan Street, Glynis Kingston, Doreen c/o Judy Herten and Joe Rawlings.

Date of next meeting: Friday 28th October at 7pm in the Hut to discuss the Christmas Bazaar, which will take place on Saturday 19th November.

Harvest Supper report

By Richard Jinman, our Harvest Supper correspondent

For most people harvest is simply the name of Neil Young's second-best album. But for those of us who have lived in the country for at least a year, it is also a time when farmers get edible stuff out of the fields using tractors and other agricultural machinery.

Each year, the village of Babcary celebrates the harvest with a supper. Not surprisingly, it is known as The Harvest Supper (THS). This year's supper was held on the new Herzog & de Meuron-designed verandah, the first time this architecturally-significant extension has been used for a village event.

The recent passing of Queen Elizabeth II, the UK's longest serving monarch, was marked by a minute's silence, a rendition of the National Anthem and lusty calls of 'God save the King!'

It is often remarked that THS is the best meal you can have for £7. This year was no exception. Plates of ham and turkey were passed down the tables and jacket potatoes were coaxed out of silver foil coats. There were bread rolls too. And butter. Pudding was apple pie and ice cream, although in this writer's experience the pie portions varied dramatically in size, an upsetting anomaly the organisers might like to look at.

What is a Harvest Supper without top-flight entertainment? Fortunately, Babcary can call on the musical talents of Nikki Hewson, an ivory-tickler who makes Rachmaninoff look like a ham-fisted amateur. Nikki's talent has clearly been inherited by her children, Harry and Isla, who delighted the audience with entertaining songs about fish and self-belief, respectively.

Next up: an exciting, lightly-rehearsed new trio called The Babcary Blues Orchestra. Featuring Hewson on piano, Paul 'Fly-Ball' Cuff on vocals and 'Blind Lemon' Jinman on upright bass, the band offered visceral interpretations of Sinatra's My Way, Presley's Hound Dog and Jimmy Reed's Bright Lights, Big City. Doubtless, the crowd would have leaped to their feet and danced were they not firmly wedged behind the trestle tables.

Just when you thought the entertainment could not get any better, Nikki ushered on an entire choir to sing the popular rural anthem "Fling 'em 'ere, fling 'em there". If there's a better song about inadvertent excrement distribution I've yet to hear it.

Wanting more, the crowd rose to its feet when Dave 'Unpasteurised' Paull began the traditional auction of apple pies, bread rolls and er, more apple pies. Channelling his inner 1970s game show host, Dave got the bids coming thick and fast. As an apple pie broke the £500 threshold and a particularly handsome courgette went under the hammer for £60, there were gasps from the crowd.

The night was capped off with drinks at Robbo and Steve's Outback bar, an institution offering a notoriously wide pallet (geddit?) of tinctures. What a night, what a village! And heartfelt thanks to everyone who pulled this year's THS together and ran it so smoothly.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Shop Rota

1 st October	Sally and Vee	5 th November	Judy and Jane
8 th October	Cordelia and Jules	12 th November	Jan and Karen
15 th October	Helen and Teresa	19 th November	NO SHOP - BAZAAR
22 nd October	Lucy and Jenny	26 th November	Caroline and Tracyanne
29 th October	Rita and Carole	3 rd December	Gilli and Shirley

Clock Golf

By Richard Jinman, clock golf editor

Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Nancy Lopez: just three of the world-class golfers who failed to attend the annual Babcary clock golf tournament. Their absence was keenly felt, but soon forgotten as the temporal tournament got underway and a firmament of new stars emerged.

As Rear Admiral (Ret) Peter Sparkes withdrew the gold-headed putter he was given for his 16th birthday from its sheath there were gasps from the crowd. Not to be outdone, Steve Street unveiled a 1970s putter closely resembling a metal detector. Both instruments were inspected for compliance by eagle-eyed tournament director Judy Herten.

What is clock golf? The game, which dates back to the 17th century, requires players to hit a ball into a hole from all 12 points on a clock face using as few strokes as possible. At the same time, a group of onlookers eat as much cake as possible and shout useless advice from the sidelines.

Sadly, the recent heatwave had played havoc with Robin and Jenny's meticulous preparation of the iconic Upper Babcary 1-hole course. The going, to use a racing term, was somewhat rough. Shirley and Lesley fell victim to the uneven terrain, their balls ricocheting off the cake stand and passing dangerously close to the lemon drizzle.

Even Jan and Steve - veterans of the 18-hole game - seemed to struggle on a course one critic compared to the Kalahari. Rita Kingston, arriving late, crushed this writer's dreams with a display of clinical putting. Diane Redfern, Jenny B and Shirley lost their balls behind the handsome Nordic-style shed while Lesley was last seen combing a nearby field for hers.

Slowly, but inexorably, a trio of frontrunners began to emerge. As Robin, David Redfern and Simon Hoar, went mano-a-mano for a trophy the size of a thimble, the crowd fell silent; slices of sponge hung suspended before open mouths.

Sadly, clock golf is a cruel mistress - there can only be one winner. After 12 hours of nail-biting competition, David Redfern emerged victorious and was carried around the village on the shoulders of his jubilant supporters.

Many thanks to Judy, Robin and Jenny for organising a competition that will live long in the memory. Applications for next year's event open in October.

Mobile Library

No mobile library this month. Next visit: November 24th at the bus shelter from 12.40 – 12.55pm.

NEW VIEWS AND COMMENTS

A warm welcome to Ian & Jo Hepburn (and animals) at Bowers Farm. And also welcome to Irene Kotlarz and Paul Vester at Church Farm; all the way from California (but GB originally).

BABCARY NATIVITY 2022!

Ten years ago, **Babcary staged a unique nativity** starring members of our fabulous village community. Travellers met at the hut to search for the **'new baby king born in Babcary'** and a trail around the village introduced them to an array of colourful characters including angels singing (drinking) in the pulpit; wise men waiting at the bus stop, not to mention street seller 'Dodgy Dave (Paull) selling his wares on Main Street. After a tip-off from a kindly innkeeper, the search for the king was over as everyone piled into the Redfern's barn to meet Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.

It was a fantastic afternoon, pulled off in true Babcary style i.e., very little rehearsal and as Jesus (Harry Hewson) turns 11 this year, it must be time to **do it again!**

Plans are already underway, and we will be holding a meeting in the hut on **Thursday, October 6th at 7.30 p.m.** for anyone who would like to get involved. There will be plenty of roles and previous acting experience isn't necessary – you just need to be ready to don a nativity-themed costume! At the meeting, we'll also be showing a film of the 2012 Nativity to give everyone a laugh and a flavour of what's to come!

Please look out for the newsletter and Babcary WhatsApp for dates and further details—it's going to be vital we have an enthusiastic 'audience' on the day who are keen to get involved.

If you would like any more information, please drop me a message:

Nikki Hewson (07812441143) or nikki.nikkiland@btinternet.com

WEATHER REPORT

Babcary received 32.9mm (1.3 inch) of rain during August mostly falling (28.2mm) on the 16th of the month. This resulted (regionally) in the driest July-August period since records began in 1891. Reservoir stocks for Wessex fell to 40% capacity.

After 66% (two thirds) of the year we have received less than 40% of the average annual rainfall.

Steve Street



Heartfelt words from Betty, one of millions

How can we think of our dearest
Queen Elizabeth II without shedding a silent tear?

She will be in our thoughts forever and in our memories ever dear.

She was there for us in our darkest days
and helped us to see things through
A shining example to us all, so loving and so true.

What precious times we can all recall
of how she dedicated her life to be there for us all.

The years have passed so quickly like the twinkling of an eye,
but our memories of this gracious lady and what she stood for
will never, ever die.

Her light from Heaven will shine upon us
and we will feel her presence near,
This Queen whom we adored and loved so very, very dear.

In our hearts she will always stay, loved and remembered every day.

Betty Whitcher, Bramble Cottage, Foddington

Parish website

Dear villagers

The Parish Council wish to draw everyone's attention that there is an official website for the village <http://babcaryparishcouncil.org.uk>. This is required to post official copies of Parish Council minutes, agendas etc.

But in addition to this there is also facility for committees and parishioners to post details of forthcoming events and very soon back copies of the newsletter will be posted as reference point.

The residents WhatsApp group and Facebook have proved to be valuable for getting quick messages out to villagers, and it is hoped that this will continue – but we feel it would be useful if the website had more articles posted to it so there is a permanent and easy to access reference point.

So, in future, could we ask you to advise the Parish Clerk and or Phil Sketchley who have access to the administration of the website pages.

Please send any items you wish to be posted on the village website in a Word document, with any related photographs, or as open text, preferably in an email to Jasmine Tucker jasminetucker74@icloud.com or philsketchley8@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday 6 th October	Meeting re: Babcary Nativity	7.30 hut
Monday 10 th October	PC Meeting	8pm hut
Saturday 22 nd October	Six Pilgrims' Race Night	7 for 7.30 N Barrow village hall
Friday 28 th October	CC Meeting	7pm hut
Saturday 5 th November	Bonfire Night	6pm gates open
Every Tuesday	Bell Ringing	6pm in the church
Every Saturday	Community shop	9.30-11am in the hut

SIX PILGRIMS' FAMILY RACE NIGHT at North Barrow Village Hall



Saturday, 22 October 2022
Doors open 7pm - First race 7.30pm

Admission (including supper) £5
Under 16s £2.50
Cash bar (card machine available)

Tickets available by emailing sihoar@yahoo.co.uk

Raising funds for Six Pilgrims, PROMISEworks and the MND Association



The Rotary Club of Brue Valley Trust Fund is a registered charity No. 1165514

Saturday 5th November

BABCARY BONFIRE NIGHT

*Bonfire & Fireworks
from 7pm*

Hog roast, Hot dogs & Bar

*Gates open at 6pm
Parking on the playing field*

ADMISSION:
*Adults £5
Children £2*