

# BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

What a fantastic evening we all had on 5<sup>th</sup> November! Congratulations to George on 50 years of firework displays and many thanks to the entire team. The Playing Field Committee did a grand job of efficiently organising the car parking, the bar and the delicious food.

Christmas began with the Bazaar on 19<sup>th</sup> November and there's a great line-up for December:

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Decorating the Christmas Tree**

10.30am on the village green

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Shop with free mulled wine**

9.30-11.30am in the Hut

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> – The Babcary Nativity Trail**

3pm at the Hut

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> – Carol Singing around the village**

6pm at the Christmas Tree

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Carol Service**

5pm in the Church

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Pop Lacrosse at 11am on the Playing Field**

For those of you would rather sign a communal Christmas card than buy individual cards for your fellow villagers, there will be a card in the Church throughout December for everyone to sign. Please place a donation in the wall safe, which will be sent to Children's Hospice South West.

Contributions for the February edition: 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Email: [carolehartnell@googlemail.com](mailto:carolehartnell@googlemail.com).

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## PARISH COUNCIL

### 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 Parish Council Draft Minutes 8pm at The Hut

**Present:** Mr Simon Hoar, Mr Philip Sketchley, Mr Graham Hughes, Mr Steve Street, Mr Damien Pick, Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mrs Melinda Terleske, Mr Henry Hobhouse (SSDC) & Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk) and a shepherd briefly present.

**Apologies:** Mr Mike Lewis (SSCC) & Mr Kevin Messenger (SSDC).

Minutes of the Previous Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 agreed & to be signed.

12th September 2022 Minutes agreed & signed, error on Minutes to rectified before signing at November Meeting.

#### 1) Matters Arising

- i) Static property in Dilkes Lane, enquiry currently with South Somerset Enforcement Officer for action. SH to follow up.
- ii) 2 temporary traffic monitor surveys were carried out simultaneously from the 20th September for seven full days. Highways confirmed the 85th centile benchmark for traffic speeds. i.e. with 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds below 30mph they wouldn't put in a 30mph zone.
- iii) Chairs Award, nomination initiated, awaiting feedback, fingers crossed for the chosen & worthy nominee!
- iv) PC response to LCN (Local Community Networks) proposals, Chairman responded requesting smaller LCNs and for Babcary to be included in SW rural area rather the Street/Glastonbury area.

#### Finance

##### Latest statement not received

Capital Reserve Account stands at £15,132.71. Current Account Balance is £50

New signatories all obtained except for Cllr Hughes - Chairman to investigate. Invoice £72.82 INV-1520 The Somerset Association of Local Councils Limited April 2022 - March 2023 Affiliation fee, cheque to be signed December Meeting.

SSCAT (Community Accessible Transport 12/10/22 £300) PC agreed to continue support, cheque to be raised December meeting. SSCAT details to be publicized via Facebook, Parish Magazine and Parish Website, JT to feedback to SSCAT.

### 3) Planning Consultation

- i) Land East Of Steart Lane Babcary Somerton Somerset  
22/03077/AGN (Stacey Beaton new Hay Barn, Fosse Way.

### 4) Correspondence

- i) Bird Flu: The decision was made by the UK's Chief Veterinary Officer, as the UK continues to face its largest ever outbreak of avian influenza – with over 70 cases since the start of October.  
Details displayed on Babcary Facebook for increased local information.  
Full details of what is required can be found on the government website – [www.gov.uk/birds-flu](http://www.gov.uk/birds-flu) Defra helpline 03459 335577.
- ii) £300k boost for Somerset tree planting plans (ML), this press release highlights Exmoor successful bid for £300,000 to plant more trees in the local area, why not Babcary?  
Call out for local landowners interested in tree planting, let Parish Council know, if there's sufficient interest in tree planting PC to take it forward with SSCC
- iii) Flu & Covid jabs, local uptake on inoculation down, people urged to take advantage of availability, positive results are on the up.
- iv) North Street Notice Board, re varnish required, revisit when weather has dried out, currently too damp to repair add to May/June Agenda.
- v) Church Street to North Street, gate onto pathway sticking, fair weather promoting tree growth, maintenance required (PS).

### 2) Any Other Business

- i) Diverted traffic on 12/13<sup>th</sup> of November due to A303 Temporary Bridge closure, traffic diverted through the village, SH to send missive to National Highways re future diversions, requesting alternative direction, Babcary roads too small to accommodate volume of traffic.
- ii) Complaint received from local re speeding at top of Perry Hill. Problem discussed but no ideal solution
- iii) Gassons Bridge sign denoting "oncoming vehicles in the middle of the road" removed during roadworks, needs to be replaced now works completed.
- iv) Babcarian suggestion of local helpers & vehicles for emergency contacts list eg help getting to & from hospital appointments etc, council concluded use of Babcary WhatsApp, for speed of response where you will always find a cheerful and swift response, if you know someone in Babcary who is not a member point them in the direction of the parish council to be added.
- v) During current financial/fuel crisis, Somerset Community Foundation ([info@somersetcf.org.uk](mailto:info@somersetcf.org.uk)) & Citizens Advice Bureau suggested as points of contact for free financial and well-being advice.
- vi) Fly tipping once again noted, Babcary Lane and Nightingale Lane brought to parish notice.

- vii) Local farmers request for dog owners to keep dogs on leads when nearing fields with ewes in and to close gates on public footpaths after use.
- viii) Request for Playing Field Committee to reattach water pipe for field (Paul Cuff to action).

3) **Date & Time of Next Meeting: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 @ 8.00pm in the Hut.**

And a few notices.....

### **Ambulances**

Q. What to do if you have to ring 999 for an ambulance and none are available (or not for several hours) and you don't have friends/family on hand to drive you in?

A. Put a message on the Residents WhatsApp group – someone is sure to be looking at it, night or day, and will either volunteer to drive you in themselves or know someone who can. We considered the idea of having a phone list of volunteer drivers but this is probably the quickest and most effective way.

### **South Somerset Community Access Transport (SSCAT)**

SSCAT minibuses and cars operate in our area and will take you anywhere within the district whether it's shopping or visiting friends or a hospital appointment. It's a volunteer/charity run organisation. They charge for the distance travelled but the rates are very reasonable.

Google South Somerset Community Access Transport or email [info@communitytransport.org.uk](mailto:info@communitytransport.org.uk) or phone 01935 477399.

### **Cost of Living**

In these difficult times if you are unsure where to go for impartial financial/welfare/surviving the winter advice google the Somerset Community Foundation and/or Citizens Advice Bureau. Email [info@somersetcf.org.uk](mailto:info@somersetcf.org.uk) or phone 01749 344949.

### **Dogs and Gates**

There are pregnant ewes and new born lambs in the fields now. When walking please ensure that dogs are kept under control and gates are firmly closed.

### **Tree Planting**

Does anyone want to plant some trees and/or have a bit of land or verge that might be suitable? Contact Simon Hoar on 07904 344453

SIH

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### Services

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30	N.Barrow	Family service	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Babcary</b>	<b>communion</b>	
		16.30	S.Barrow	Christingle	
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30	Hornblotton	matins	
		18.00	N.Barrow	Carol service	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>17.00</b>	<b>Babcary</b>	<b>Candlelight Carols</b>	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Lovington</b>	<b>Communion</b>	
Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	10.30	S.Barrow	Family service	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Babcary</b>	<b>Communion</b>	
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.30	Hornblotton	matins	
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	10.30	Alford	communion	
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.30	N.Barrow	communion	

### Cleaning

### Flowers

### Coffee

### Sidesmen

4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Nikki & Karen	Jo		
11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Rita & Jenny	Teresa	TBA	Peter & Karen
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Simon & Shirley	Mary		
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Janet & Lucy	Elisabeth	N/A	All hands
1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Sarah & Sarah	Judy H		
8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Elisabeth & Mary	Su	TBA	Robin & Michele
15 <sup>th</sup> Jan				
22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan				
29 <sup>th</sup> Jan				

### Carol Singing

Carol singing around the village (well, central Babcary anyway) will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December. Meet at 6pm at the Christmas tree on the village green. Bring a torch. If you're not singing then please be ready by your door with some cash for the Children's Hospice South West – a very worthy cause - who have seen donations fall significantly during the pandemic.

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Service**

5pm on 24<sup>th</sup> at the church. We're back inside this year (Covid permitting). This magical service really is when the whole village gathers together to celebrate Christmas with six readings and seven carols. The church will be packed so please arrive early if you need a seat. There will be a big collection for Children's Hospice South West at the end.

### **Pop Up Choir**

The Pop up Choir will be performing at the Christmas Eve Carol Service and we could do with a few more voices, particularly men. We're very amateur, no experience required; it's for anyone who enjoys singing. Please contact Nikki Hewson on 07812 441143

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### **Pink envelopes**

Please pass the pink magazine donation envelopes back to a member of the PCC (Mel Terleske, Michele Sherren, Rory McD, Robin Brown or Simon Hoar) who will then pass them on to the treasurer. Many thanks. SIH

## **PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE**

### **Bonfire Night**

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November was a spectacular display and a great night. Huge numbers of people enjoyed George Kingston's 50<sup>th</sup> firework display and bonfire – both surely the biggest ever. George was presented with an engraved brass lighter (what else!) for his efforts. Thanks too to the rest of the fireworks team and to the playing field committee members and other volunteers who coped so heroically with car parking, the gate, the bar and of course the hog roast for vast numbers.

### **Cricket Nets**

We have applied to the National Highways A303 dualling fund for help with installing new cricket nets – more news soon. SIH

### **Babcary Road Race**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Time to start training – now!

## **COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

The Church looked amazing with all the festive stalls at the Christmas Bazaar on 19<sup>th</sup> November. Bowls of bulbs, Christmas crafts, willow bird feeders, beautifully hand crafted wreaths, cakes and fudge, mulled wine and teas – it was worthy of any Christmas market! Many thanks to all of you who came; thanks to your generosity we raised £722 towards village and church funds.

The raffle prize winners were Fred Gunn, Sarah Stuckey, Julie Clark, Elisabeth Rutherford, Heidi Russell, Phil Sketchley, Rory McD, Jan Street, Mel Terleske, Rosemary Pick, Tina Hutchings, Caroline Squire, Tom Clark, Gilli Salmons, Freya McCall, Glynis Kingston, Lorraine nee Compton, Peter Sparks and Helen's Mum, Pam.

Judy's cup of tea game had four winners: Jane Brock, Phil Sketchley, Dawn McLeod and Shirley Hoar.

The Guess the number of sweets in the jar had joint winners; Heidi Russell (146) and Sophie McCall (150). The actual total was 148.

Next on the agenda is our Christmas Shop on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December where there will be lots of Christmas goodies on sale and another chance to buy Christmas crafts. There will be the usual excellent coffee as well as free mulled wine. The Senior Citizens' Christmas presents will also be distributed.

The next meeting will be the AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

## **Village Christmas Tree**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10.30. The children are all invited to come along to help decorate the village tree from 10.30 onwards on the village green. Surplus and oversized Christmas tree decorations very welcome!

Our thanks to Paul and Irene at Church Farm for allowing us to tap into their electricity for the lights.

# OTHER ACTIVITIES

## Shop Rota

3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Gilli and Shirley	7 <sup>th</sup> January	Cordelia and Jules
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Sally and Vee	14 <sup>th</sup> January	Helen and Teresa
17 <sup>th</sup> December	CHRISTMAS SHOP	21 <sup>st</sup> January	Lucy and Jenny
24 <sup>th</sup> December	NO SHOP	28 <sup>th</sup> January	Rita and Carole
31 <sup>st</sup> December	NO SHOP	4 <sup>th</sup> February	Judy and Jane

There has been a spate of people not paying for goods recently. We realise that nobody would do this deliberately, but please be vigilant so that the Shop doesn't lose out! We will always pay the donor whatever is owed regardless.

## Mobile Library

No visits in December and January. Next visit February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the bus shelter from 1.10 – 1.35pm. Note new time.

## BOXING DAY POP LACROSSE

It does seem to come round extremely fast!

The now 'traditional' Boxing Day Pop Lacrosse will happen at 11 a.m. on Boxing Day on the tennis court on the playing field.

No previous experience necessary – just trainers and enthusiasm! Anyone from 8 upwards (no upper age limit!) can join in ,just turn up.

just turn up. Spectators – otherwise known as ballboys – are more than welcome. It's only an hour out of your day.....

Work off that surfeit of Christmas pudding!!

Judy Herten



## **NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS**

We are sorry to hear that Sue Hellings is ill and send her our good wishes

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Arthur Llewellyn who has been in Yeovil hospital for 9 weeks.

A warm welcome to Frank and Myrtle Wiseman and their daughter Goldie at Star Farm. They've just come from Leighton Orient but have spent many years in the Far East.

### **A message of thanks from The Compton Family:**

Following the sad passing of Dot, Ron and family would like to give thanks to the villagers for their thoughtfulness and compassion shown during this difficult time.

Hearing Simon Hoar toll the church bell the day after Dot's passing was very poignant and was a very fitting tribute to celebrate her 80 wonderful years, 57 of which were spent as a Babcary resident.

The many sympathy cards we have received have been of great comfort to us and the heartfelt messages of condolences have highlighted that it's not just us, as a family, who are feeling her loss. We always knew Dot was a special person and we are heartened to know that many others recognised this too.

We were overwhelmed by the number of mourners at Dot's funeral and we would like to thank each and every one of you who attended. As Jonathon, her son, said in his tribute, 'Mum loved Babcary and, from some of the village tributes, Babcary loved her.'

We hope that Dot's contributions to the village will be remembered in years to come and that others will reflect on her life with many fond memories.

Please accept this as our personal thanks and know that your kind and caring thoughts are helping us through this period of grieving.

### **WEATHER REPORT**

Babcary received 102.1mm (4") of rainfall during October more than half of this falling between 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of the month. Reservoir stocks for the Wessex Region were still low at 36% capacity.

**Steve Street**

## Babcary Nativity - Sunday 18th December 3pm at the Hut

It's now ten years since the last village Nativity - "Jesus" has grown up and is working for his grade 4 piano! Those of you who remember the last one will have some idea of what an incredible event to expect, those who haven't, well..... you need to be there on 18th! More information on Whatsapp and Facebook will follow over the next few days.

Please gather at the Hut by 3pm (where there will be various things on display and some, er, colourful, local characters holding forth). At 3.15 sharp we will walk up Dirty Lane to the top of the hill and into the Kingston's field to witness the Nativity as you've never quite imagined it (and as you'll never see it again)! Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring a torch or, better still, a lantern. Small children will be "stars" and can dress accordingly.

There will be a collecting box in aid of Children's Hospice South West and mulled wine and mince pies at the end.

NB. FIFA unfortunately failed to consult us about the date and time of the World Cup final but we are relying on England to avoid a clash.....



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Decorating Christmas Tree	Village Green 10.30am
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Communion Service	Church 10.30am
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Shop	Hut 9.30-11am
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity Trail	Hut 3pm
Wednesday 21st December	Carol Singing round village	Christmas Tree 6pm
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Eve Carol Service	Church 5pm
Monday 26h December	Pop Lacrosse	Playing Field 11am
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Communion Service	Church 10.30am
Every Tuesday	Bell Ringing	6pm in the church
Every Saturday	Community Shop	9.30 – 11am in the hut