

BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

Many thanks to George and his team for a brilliant Firework Display on 4th November and to the Playing Field Committee for the organising and catering. Now for your Christmas line-up:



9th December - Red Lion Christmas Fair 10am – 3pm

Decorating the Village Christmas Tree 10.30am on the Green

Churchyard Clear-up from 10.30am

Village Christmas Card & Babcary Illuminations

16th December – Children’s Trip to the Pantomime at Westlands

22nd December – Carol Singing round the village starting 6pm on the Village Green

Decorating the church Christmas tree 10.30



23rd December – Christmas Shop 9.30-11am



24th December – Christmas Eve Carol Service 5pm in the Church

26th December – Pop Lacrosse 11am on the Playing Field

Email: carolehartnell@googlemail.com. Deadline for next newsletter 22nd January

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARISH COUNCIL

Date & Time of Next Meeting: Monday 11th December in the hut at 8pm.

Monday 13th November 2023 Parish Council Draft Minutes 8pm at the Hut

Present: Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mr Simon Hoar, Mr Philip Sketchley, Mr Graham Hughes, Mr Damian Pick, Mrs Melinda Terleske, Mr Steve Street, Mr Kevin Messenger (SC) & Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk).

Apologies: none

Minutes of the Previous Meeting 9th October 2023 agreed & signed.

1) Matters Arising

- i) LCN meeting Weds 4th Oct – Working parties set up on Highways, Footpaths and Flooding.

- ii) Pot Holes around village have seen some attention but still require completion but Somerset Council lacks the funds. The chairman reported that all the drains and ditches at the entrance to Deer Park Farm have been cleared out/renewed.
DP drew attention to Enquiry 654498 - Ditches - Foddington Rd, Babcary, the blockage has got considerable worse with the ditch now backing up to such an extent that it is flooding over. This has never happened before, potentially two serious consequences:
 1. The outfall from the two waste treatment plants that serve 5 properties are currently underwater and are not functioning correctly as water is following back from the ditch into the treatment plants because the falls are very shallow – in fact the lowest property now struggling to flush the toilet! This is now happening!
 2. Water from the ditch is now overflowing and running down the road and ponding at the road junction nearby. Concerns this will form sheet ice at the junction when the weather turns cold.We are 6 weeks into the 12 week period and have heard nothing from contractors – it was first reported in August 2022. DP in discussion with John Nicholson Assistant Highway Service Manager – Highways

- iii) Old climbing frame located in Playing field, exposed stumps - in hand
- iv) Phone Box needs repainting, repair by local good will gesture or seek quote.
- v) ICO, Information Commissioner, Fee (DPA, any information held on file re Parish).
Parish Council challenged the requirement for ICO fee as Electoral Role (only personal information held by council) is freely available to the public. JT to look into (response requested from Simon Pritchard SALC).
- vi) On the future for villagers with oil boilers as new or replacement boilers were likely to be banned from 2026 but that is now suspended. Further information to be circulated via Babcary Village News, FaceBook & babcaryparishcouncil.org.uk.. The draft report will

be added to the Bab Cary Parish website for those interested and updated accordingly as and when further definitive details are made available from the government.

After government U-turn pressure is now off! Future updates will be ongoing PS.

- vii) Footpath by The Old School - Richard Jinman has agreed to cut back the hedge.
- viii) Dog Poop Bag Dispenser to be installed outside The Hut.
- ix) Sink hole on Foddington Road opposite Redland Cottage reported two months ago was raised as a concern, reported again via John Nicholson - still awaited.
- x) Melinda & Phil to put forward information relating to the Highway Code & equestrian etiquette, details re Highway Code, concerning horses, pedestrians and disabled persons discussed Parish Council agreed to publish info sheet in the newsletter.

2) Finance

Capital Reserve Account stands at £16,443.88 Current Account Balance is £50

Poop Bag Dispenser costs £29.80 reimburse Jasmine Tucker, cheque raised.

Parish Clerk Wages £1236.00, cheque raised.

Annual Expenditure to be updated (JT) to be revisited December meeting.

3) Planning Consultation

- i) Re: APP/R3325/W/22/3309137, 3309132 & 3309133 Notification of Appeal, The Red Lion Inn, North Street Bab Cary, Change of Informal Hearing to Written Representation Procedure. The inspector has called. Decision awaited
- ii) Newlands Farm Lane to the West of Newlands Lane Bab Cary Somerset Ref. No: 23/00800/FUL | Received: Tue 21 Mar 2023 | Validated: Wed 26 Apr 2023 Change of use of land to mixed agricultural/equestrian and construct stables building, straw barn, outdoor arena and horse walker | Status: Awaiting decision
- iii) Address: Newlands Farm Lane To The West Of Newlands Lane Bab Cary Somerset Outline Application with all matters reserved for the erection of an equestrian worker's dwelling. Reference: 23/00792/OUT Status: Awaiting decision

3) Correspondence

- i) CAT Bus Ring & Ride, letter requesting £100 support, & or local drivers (appeal to be posted on Bab Cary FB), review December meeting.
- ii) Community Car Scheme, volunteers to transport locals to NHS Appointments, poster for display, Gemma Ruffle, Somerset Council, posters to be displayed and added to parish WhatsApp.
- iii) "CAB, 5 CAB now 1! We would like to apply to the Parish Council for a grant towards the cost of providing advice, support and specialist casework that enables the people of Somerset to plan for and manage through key life events and change. Parish Council agreed to continue their support – amount to be confirmed at December meeting.

4) Any Other Business

- i) KM informed the PC that 23 gritters are ready to grit the local area, 4000 miles of local roads are due to be repaired including verges & gutters.
- ii) Current costs for child & adult care has increased, concerns have been raised that assets will be sold to cover.
- iii) Missing sign posts “20’s Plenty” and chevrons at the North Street corner. Reported to Highways. Forthcoming improved signage for North Street considered a possibility, but not conclusive.
- iv) County Emergency Plans, Simon Hoar elected as Parish Contact, nominated by MT & supported by GH.
- v) KM urged locals to make sure their surrounding areas, ditches and drains are kept clear of seasonal debris, leaves and the like.

5) **Date & Time of Next Meeting: 8pm Monday 11th December 2023 in the Hut**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Services

Sunday	2 nd Dec	4.30pm	South Barrow	Christingle	
Sunday	10 th Dec	10.30	North Barrow	communion	
Sunday	17 th Dec	10.30	Hornblotton	Communion	
Christmas Eve	24th Dec	5pm	Babcary	Candlelight	Carols
Christmas Eve	24 th Dec	11.30pm	N.Barrow	Midnight mass	
Christmas Day	25th Dec	10.00	S.Barrow	Communion	
Sunday	31 st Dec	10.30	Lovington	Communion	
Sunday	7 th Jan	10.30	S.Barrow	Family service	
Sunday	14th Jan	10.30	Babcary	Communion	
Sunday	21 st Jan	10.30	Hornblotton	Communion	
Sunday	28 th Jan	10.30	Alford	matins	

Church Rotas

	Cleaning	Flowers	Coffee	Sidesmen
3 rd December	Jan and Lucy	Jo		
10 th December	Sarah and Sarah	Teresa		
17 th December	Elisabeth&Mary	Mary		
24 th December	CHRISTMAS	ALL HANDS		
31 st December	Judy and Sally	Elisabeth		
7 th January	Karen and Vee	Lucy		
14 th January	Tom and Bridget	Su	Michelle&Lucy	Fred & Rory
21 st January	Nikki and Karen	Karen		
28 th January	Rita and Jenny	Rita		
4 th February	Simon & Shirley	Jo		

Churchyard clear up Saturday 9th Dec from 10.30 onwards.

Please come along with assorted gardening implements to prune, trim, weed, mow, pick up sticks, leaves etc to keep the churchyard looking good – see list of tasks on the church door. Coffee & cakes at half time. Thank you

Village Christmas Tree

The children are invited to come along and help decorate the village Christmas tree at 10.30 on **Saturday 9th December** on the village green. If you have any surplus tree decorations – the bigger the better – please bring them along.



Babcary Illuminations 9th December

The Christmas tree lights will be switched on, as will the "Holy Cross" on top of the tower. Our thanks to Paul and Irene for their electricity for the former and the Paul Cuff for installing the latter.

Village Christmas Card

From 9th December there will be a village Christmas card on the font in the church. If you've ever struggled with which friends and neighbours to send cards to, or agonised over the sheer waste of it all, then this is the answer. Sign this one big card "to all you friends and neighbours in Babcary" and put a donation to the Children's Hospice SW in the wall safe. It's a win/win.

Church Christmas Tree Friday 22nd 10.30am.

Please come and help decorate the Christmas tree in the church from 10.30 onwards

Carol singing around the village Friday 22nd December

Meet at 6pm at the Christmas tree on the village green and we will work our way up the village as far as Hill Farm House. If you aren't singing please be ready with some cash for the Children's Hospice SW

Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Service

The unique Christmas Eve carols by candlelight service, a service that can only be described as magical and really marks the start of Christmas proper in Babcary, takes place at 5pm. Please arrive early if you need a seat as the church will be absolutely packed. The children will be taking the lead this year and there will be a collection on the way out in aid of the Children's Hospice SW.



Last year we raised over £1,000 for the Children's Hospice, a very worthy cause and we very much hope that we'll be able to match or exceed that sum this year

SIH

PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Babcary Road Race

Entries are now open for the annual road race which will be on Sunday 25th February at 11am. 7.5 miles of unending, er, fun. Time to start training NOW!

Bonfire Night

A big vote of thanks to everyone who helped with bonfire night on 4th Nov. Another spectacular success and, in the end, we were very lucky to get perfect weather.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Christmas Bazaar

We were delighted that so many people came to the Bazaar and made it such a festive occasion. Thanks to Judy's sideshow, "Guess the number of people at the Bazaar", we know that there were 90 of you. The stalls rivalled any Christmas Market in the land with all the handmade crafts, decorations, wreaths and bulbs, so beautifully displayed. There was mulled wine and teas to warm you up on this very cold, but bright day, cakes and sweets to tempt you, and a tombola for the children. Many thanks to everyone who toiled away to produce all these lovely goodies!

The Raffle prize winners were: Holly (c/o Teresa Rhodes); Judy Herten; Pam (Helen's Mum); Joe Rawlings; Graham Hughes; Sarah Tubridy; Cordelia Thompson; Rachel Dauncey; Andrea Thomas; Elisabeth Rutherford; Simon Hoar; Teresa Gilbert.

The winner of the "Guess the number of people at the Bazaar" was Dawn McLeod.

Christmas Shop

Come along to the Christmas Shop on Saturday 23rd December for a free glass of mulled wine and/or Richard's excellent coffee. There will be festive food on sale and another opportunity to buy Christmas crafts.

SCH

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mobile Library

Calls at the bus shelter from 1.10 – 1.35pm on the 7th December and a new time of 12.55 – 1.15pm on the 18th January.

Shop Rota

2 nd December	Caroline and TracyAnne	6 th January	Cordelia and Jules
9 th December	Gilli and Shirley	13 th January	Helen and Teresa
16 th December	Vee and Sally	20 th January	Lucy and Jenny
23 rd December	CHRISTMAS SHOP	27 th January	Rita and Carole
30 th December	No shop	3 rd February	Judy and Jane

POP LACROSSE

A reminder to all the energetic, athletic members of Babcary (I've seen you running round the lanes!) that there will be an hour's pop -lacrosse on the tennis court in the playing field at 11 am on Boxing Day.

Absolutely no experience necessary: trainers - of the foot variety – helpful.

JAH

NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Welcome to Richard & Lucinda Dimpleby and their little son Freddy at Olive Farm

Congratulations to James & Dorothy on the birth of their son Woodson Alexander Pout on 12th November. A little brother for June to boss around.

RIP Frankie. After a long life of 20 years, Frankie the cat, late of the Red Lion and more recently given a home by Jerry Spence, has now gone to the great hunting ground in the sky. See obituary below.

20s Plenty

It has been noted that road signs are being removed/stolen from the village. The safety bend chevrons on the corner of Foddington Lane and Main Street have all gone and now 3 x '20 Plenty' signs from North Street, Perry Hill and outside the Old School. We have checked with SOMERSET Highways and they haven't removed them and it seems the stainless-steel bands holding the signs have been cut through with metal shears and left behind at the foot of the posts, so it therefore seems to be malicious damage. If anyone has any intelligence on this please let the Parish Council know, in confidence please. Also, could we ask those villagers living adjacent to the remaining signs on Baker Street/Main Street outside the Old Granary and the one at the entrance to North Street to keep an eye out. We suspect this must be being done at nighttime of course so less likely to be spotted. Thank you.

Speeding cars near to Horses and other animals

It is appreciated that speeding is a contentious issue and whilst there is an unrestricted speed limit in the village of 60 mph, many feel it would be more appropriate to have a much lower speed limit i.e. a 30mph limit, or even 20mph, for a small village with narrow roads and many bends. Nevertheless, whilst the earlier speeding monitoring last year sadly illustrated that a few drivers see the 60 as a challenge to try and achieve (!), most but certainly not all respect the fact that lower speeds are safer and more responsible.

However, there are increasing concerns about the speed of some vehicles when passing horses on the road, as sadly there have been some very near misses in recent months. Whilst we are sure that most drivers are aware and drive with appropriate due care, sadly there is some evidence of local drivers, as well as some 'white van' delivery drivers, who don't understand or respect the law or Highway Code and who have even aggressively challenged horse riders who have politely asked or indicated for them to slow down.

But in this instance the Highway Code, is quite clear and specific: -

Rule 215

Horse riders and horse-drawn vehicles. *Be particularly careful of horse riders and horse-drawn vehicles especially when approaching, overtaking, passing or moving away. Always pass wide and slowly. When you see a horse on a road, you should slow down to a maximum of 10 mph. Be patient, do not sound your horn or rev your engine. When safe to do so, pass wide and slow, allowing at least 2 metres of space.*

This is especially true if you drive a large vehicle, van and/or towing a noisy trailer and particularly in winter when the wind can mask the sound of an oncoming vehicle.

The attached leaflet from the British Horse Society entitled 'Pass Wide and Slow' provides an excellent summary of why we all need to respect this Code and then hopefully we won't have an incident like the rather graphic photograph of a horse that was been hit by a car and has gone through the windscreen of the car. Which inevitably will cause the death of the horse and perhaps also the rider, the car driver and any passenger in the vehicle. Remember a large adult horse, of say 14-16 hands high, can weigh from 450kg up to 600kg or more.

The Highway Code also makes it clear that **car horns should never be sounded** and therefore as Babcary Lane and Church Street have regular horse traffic please do not sound your horn as you approach Old School bend, as approaching horses may be out of your sight but your horn will be well within ear shot of the horse.

Speaking from personal experience, many years ago, a member of the Parish Council was pulling off from a garage forecourt in another village at a speed of just 5 mph, immediately adjacent to a farmyard gate, when a hunter horse galloped directly out into the road after being 'spooked' in a field over 100 yards from the road. The horse hit the side of the car and caused extensive damage. But more importantly and sadly, the horse had to be euthanised as it was so badly injured just by hitting the car wing, let alone the trauma to the driver and the horse owner.

PS. Whilst this article was focussing on horses, we feel the same road etiquette applies to other animals, as we do get the odd **sheep and cows** wandering along the roads for an afternoon stroll, **dog walkers, mobility scooters** and **cyclists** who often have to dodge potholes and puddles at the last minute (not that we have many of those around Babcary!).

Many thanks for your understanding and cooperation. **Phil Sketchley, for the Parish Council.**

THE RED LION BABCARY CHRISTMAS GIFT AND FARMERS MARKET

**SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER
10AM TO 3PM**

IN AID OF HELP THE HOMELESS

Obituary – Frank the Cat

Frank, the Red Lion cat, died on 30th October 2023. He was 20.

Frank was born in the autumn, 2003, and as a kitten, was frequently seen peering out between the lapels of Nolan's jacket behind the bar studying the drinkers as pints were poured. He soon became frosty to customers' affections and quickly learned to display indifference when approached to be stroked. His hunting skills progressed as he grew and his territory expanded. He kept a secret place - a bush - under which could be found piles of discarded KitKat wrappers, evidence of his hunting prowess.

When it came to usurpers encroaching his patch he could see off any of them with little effort. His apparent bulk did most of the work. In reality it was mostly all fur and fluff.

One of his special skills was to discretely follow people home after closing time hoping there'd be a slice of meat on offer before he would stroll back to his bush for dessert. Most visitors would meet Frank at the front door of the pub. He would wait patiently at the door for it to be opened by the next person to arrive to let him in or out without as much as a miaow. Rarely did he give anyone the chance to stroke him and he always went first.

After Nolan left Frank enjoyed a plethora of managers and staff who resided above the pub most of whom were treated with his usual disinterest. In March 2020 the pub closed for lockdown and Frank moved to Yew Tree Farm where he pestered the tradesmen for titbits from their lunchboxes. He soon learned to break into the house "Felix" food store and help himself - founded on the skill he'd honed in pinching pub KitKats and opening them under the bush.

Come his dotage however, he did learn to tolerate toddlers and adults and spent many an hour curled up in front of the fire and allowed himself to be stroked. Come feeding time however - and you could set your watch by it - he would let you know about it until food was served, and so he saw

out his later years in relaxed comfort mostly spent sleeping and eating. Right until the end he was still pinching food whenever it was left unguarded.

Frank never had any kittens – well, none that we know about!

JS

Frank the Cat 2003 – 2023

WEATHER REPORT

With 134.6mm (5.3 inch) of rainfall October was the second wettest since our records began in 1980. By the end of October we have received as much rain as in the whole of 2022. Over the past 12 months in the Wessex Region most hydrological areas received exceptionally high rainfall making it was the wettest it's been for this 12-month period since 1960 and the third wettest overall since 1891.

Steve Street

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday 7 th December	Mobile Library	Bus shelter 1.10 – 1.35pm
Saturday 9 th December	Red Lion Christmas Fair	Red Lion 10am – 3pm
Saturday 9 th December	Decorating Village Christmas Tree	Village Green 10.30am
Saturday 9 th December	Churchyard Clear-up	10.30am onwards
Saturday 9 th December	Sign the Village Christmas card	In the church – always open
Monday 11 th December	PC Meeting	Hut 8pm
Saturday 16 th December	Pantomime	Westlands
Friday 22 nd December	Decorating the church Christmas tree	10.30 onwards
Friday 22 nd December	Carol Singing around the village	Meet at the village green 6pm
Saturday 23 rd December	Christmas Shop	Hut 9.30 – 11am
Sunday 24 th December	Carol Service	Babcary Church 5pm
Tuesday 26 th December	Pop Lacrosse	Playing Field 11am
Sunday 14 th January	Communion Service	Babcary Church 10.30am
Thursday 18 th January	Mobile Library	Bus shelter 12.55 – 1.15pm
Every Tuesday	Bell Ringing	Church 6pm
Every Saturday	Community Shop	Hut 9.30 – 11am