

BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

BABCARY SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 22ND JUNE

3PM ON THE PLAYING FIELD

Cream Teas

Robbo and Steve's Prosecco Bar

Cakes

Ice Creams

Plants

Raffle

Bottle Stall

Skittles

Children's Tombola

White Elephant

We look forward to seeing you all at this quintessentially English get-together. All contributions to any of the above would be gratefully received. If you could spare a bottle of wine or a box of chocolates for the Raffle, or bake a cake for the Cake Stall, that would be great! We shall start setting up at 9.30 so any items can be brought from then onwards.

Deadline for July/August contributions: 24th June

Email: carolehartnell@googlemail.com

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARISH COUNCIL.

Monday 13th May 2024 Parish Council Draft Minutes 7pm at The Hut

Present: Mr Simon Hoar, Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mrs Melinda Terleske, Mr Graham Hughes, Mr Steve Street, Mr Damien Pick, Mr Kevin Messenger (County Councillor), 1 (MP) Mr Paul Cuff (Playing Field Committee Chairman) Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Mr Phil Sketchley, Henry Hobhouse (County Councillor).

Annual Parish Meeting

Open floor opportunity for members of the community to raise any issues or concerns.

Election of chairman and and vice chairman

Simon Hoar elected Chairman, Graham Hughes proposed, Steve Street seconded.

Phil Sketchley elected Vice Chairman, Simon Hoar proposed, Graham Hughes seconded.

1) Matters Arising

i) The 'sinkhole "on the Foddington Road continues to show signs of collapse, HH had some contact with John Nicholson (JN), KM offered his apologies for lack of current activity, despite his continued work to gain answers, third parties have been uncontactable.

No new updates given at 08/04/24 meeting. PS or SH to communicate with John Nicholson regarding sinkhole, ditches & local potholes.

Potholes all reported by SH on report link to Somerset Council, Highways have since been out to repair the road surfaces, BUT NOT potholes in the roadsides and culverts ('trashing' kerbs) at the edge of the roads! Major concern when cars pushed to the roadside increasing hazardous terrain for vehicles.

BPC (SH) to report damage on roads attributed to increased volume of heavy traffic bypassing A303 dual carriageway, and going via Babcary & Foddington with a view to National Highways England resurfacing the roads.

ii) Ditches and blocked culverts at the entrance to Olive Farm and other properties.

John Nicholson away until 20/05/24, study leave, no cover available.

iii) Slowdown for Horses signage, MT suggested investing in Dead Slow Horse signs for the many horse riders safety in Babcary. PC agreed one extra sign at Spring Gardens, local

equestrian premises, to ask drivers to be aware of riders and consider others welfare on the road.
Request for signs from Highways; SH, no cost involved.

2) Finance

Capital Reserve Account stands at £17,654.79 Current Account balance £50.

Somerset Annual Precept advice 25/04/2024 S0037378 £4656.00

Annual Accounts review (JT) and latest bank statement; BPC approved.

3) Planning Consultation

- i) Planning Application 24/00515/HOU at the Brambles, Main Street for the erection of a Triple Carport. Amended plans have been submitted to reduce the height of the proposed car port, RESPONSE BY 17th May.
NO OBJECTIONS
- ii) Newlands Farm - decision awaited.
- iii) West Farm : Planning Application: 24/00969/S73 at West Farm Foddington Road
Babcary Proposal: Application to vary conditions, Bat/Bird Box and Bee Brick in relation to planning Package Treatment Plant
NO OBJECTIONS

4) Correspondence

- i) Rights of Way, maintaining public rights of way, signage etc, listing where we as a council help out, feedback to Somerset Gov.
- ii) **Playing Field Committee Annual Report from Paul Cuff**, financially comfortable, Cricket square salvaged and maintained by Jeremy Spence (thanks given for his work by the PC), Richard Canterbury is resurrecting the cricket club. 100 Club has been put on hold for the time being.
The Babcary Roadrace continues in popularity but now need a new organiser, Gary Tubridy hanging up his hat after many years of organising the Roadrace, PFC are looking for a new champion, many thanks to Gary for his years of commitment to the Parish.
PFC are now looking to revamp the children's playing equipment, namely the now missing climbing frame, for those of us who remember it!
Paul Cuff looking into the potential use of solar panels on the Hut, are they worth the outlay?

5) AOB

- i) Children's Play Area in Babcary Playing Field requires attention, PFC looking into renovations and potential replacements.

ii) Kevin Messenger put forward latest Small Enterprise Grant available via Somerset Council, any small enterprises urged to apply.

6) **Date and Time of Next Meeting: 8pm Monday 10th of June 2024 in the Hut**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Services

Sunday	2 nd June	10.30	N.Barrow	Family service	
Sunday	9 th June	10.30	Alford	Communion	
Sunday	16 th June	10.30	Lovington	Matins	
Sunday	23 rd June	10.30	S.Barrow	Communion	
Sunday	30th June	10.30	Babcary	Communion	

CHURCH ROTAS

	Cleaning	Flowers	Coffee	Sidesmen
2 nd June	Rita and Jenny	Elisabeth		
9 th June	Simon & Shirley	Lucy		
16 th June	Jan and Lucy	Su		
23 rd June	Sarah and Sarah	Karen		
30 th June	Elisabeth & Mary	Rita	Michelle & Lucy	
7 th July	Judy and Sally	Jo		

“Raise the Roof” Concert

As you will have read, the chancel roof has reached the end of its life, too many of the lovely graduated hamstone tiles have cracked or simply weathered away. £70,000 will enable us to replace the tiles (and insulate the chancel - thus raising the roof by about 4”). Much of the money has been raised from external grant applications (thanks to Rory McD’s sheer tenacity) and generous donations from parishioners. We are now in a position to instruct the builders to start work (with the aim of getting it done during the “dry” season) but we’re not quite over the line with funding.

You are therefore invited to a “Raise the Roof” Concert in the church on the evening of **Saturday 6th July**. This will feature a host of local talent performing music of all sorts lead by the inimitable Nikki Hewson. After a cheese and wine interval in the sunlit churchyard Nikki will help us “raise the roof” with the massed voices of a Babcary crowd.

PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

CRICKET is back!

Net practice on Tuesday evenings from 6pm. Contact Richard Canterbury on 07971 101616

Sports Day

Sports Day this year is on **Saturday 6th July** on the playing field. A traditional sports day with all the usual fun and games for 5-15 year olds plus races for the toddlers and the “veterans”. Sprints, cricket ball throwing, obstacle race, bean bag, sack race, three legged and slow bicycle. Prizes for all races and silverware for the Bab Cary competitors.

Entry free. Parking on the playing field. Refreshments. Competitors need to register at 2.45pm. Would last year’s cup winners please return them in time for the day.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Shop Rota

1 st June	Lucy and Jenny	6 th July	NO SHOP – SPORTS DAY
8 th June	Rita and Carole	13 th July	Caroline and Tracyanne
15 th June	Judy and Jane	20 th July	Gilli and Shirley
22 nd June	NO SHOP - FETE	27 th July	Sally and Vee
29 th June	Jan and Karen	3 rd August	Jules and Caroline

SCH

Mobile Library

Calls at the bus shelter from 12.55 – 1.15pm on the 6th June.

NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Congratulations to Steve Wildman on completing the 670km Southern Divide cycle ride in aid of the Alzheimers Society in just 86 hours. This was his second attempt and he shaved 6 hours off his previous time – at the current rate of improvement he should be able to complete the course in 30 minutes by the time he’s about 90.

Life at Wheatlawn Farm

Chris Harrison talked about his school days for this month's newsletter. Very different from what a child would experience today; thank goodness.

For many people, schooldays are the happiest of their life. But not for Chris, sadly. He used to cycle to and from Primary School at North Barrow from Wheatlawn Farm and he remembers an Old Boy who used to stand out by his gate at what is now Pickety Witch, a cottage near North Barrow Village Hall. On his very last day of primary school the man called out to Chris and said that it was the first time he had ever seen him smile on his journeys in and out of school!

Even Primary School was very austere. We heard earlier about the small number of children at North Barrow School plus one teacher and the school cook who did actually produce very good quality school dinners. Chris had told us previously how the only school trip he ever had was of a walk around the field opposite and it does seem a very harsh regime: no PE, no Arts & Crafts, no music. The teacher had no assistant and the children, ranging in age from 5-11 were taught the same lesson from the front of the class. The mornings were consumed by maths and lots of times table reciting and the afternoons consisted of English.

On Chris's first day, he cried all day, but worse than that he found, there was a poor boy who cried all day and every day to such an extent there was a puddle on his desk at the end of the day. No obvious attempt was made to console this child and this has stuck with Chris all his life and he still remembers the boy's name.

In the winter, it was so cold in the classroom you sat with your hat and coat on. Either the teacher or the cook would be responsible for lighting a fire in the classroom stove.

Even at Primary School you got hit by the teacher with a ruler or had a blackboard rubber thrown at you. Not just for misbehaviour but for not knowing the right answer.

Chris fared a little better at Ansford due to his flair for woodwork. To get to school he cycled up to a cottage opposite North Barrow Church, where he left his bike, and then got on the Wake's School Bus which came from Marston Magna via Queen Camel, South Barrow and North Barrow before going on to Castle Cary. He did eventually make it as Bus Monitor in his last year, when some rather raucous singing took place in the back seat.

Chris wonders if the majority of the Ansford teachers were well suited to teaching as many exhibited quite cruel and unkind behaviour, although he remembers the name of a supply teacher who was more sympathetic. Again, if you didn't understand a lesson, you got hit, simple as that.

A certain PE teacher verged almost on the sadistic. The normal cross country run route was down through Florida Fields, towards the Delaware Vet premises, along through South Cary and up over Lodge Hill and back down the Wincanton Road to Castle Cary. You would arrive back at school, covered in mud and the PE teacher would force you into the shower which was completely cold and he stayed with his hand on the tap to stop any boy turning up the temperature. He seemed to delight in making boys do 50 press ups to the point where they would almost pass out but would stand over them to intimidate them.

English was still a bit tortuous with 100 long, difficult spellings to be completed in 20 minutes.

Chris shone at woodwork which was just as well because again the teacher was very cruel to a boy if he didn't understand how to use a saw or a chisel properly. If you cut a piece of wood on the wrong side of the line and ended up wasting some of the wood you would get hit with it. A further punishment was being made to stir the glue pot; the glue was made of horn and hoof and absolutely stank.

Because Chris showed competence at woodwork, he was trusted to go around the school and carry out jobs which today a maintenance team would be employed to do. But, as this got Chris out of lessons, he was happy. In fact, Chris missed quite a bit of lesson time. He was a milk monitor which entailed getting a churn trolley and loading it with crates of milk which had been dumped in the bike shed early in the morning. By being milk monitor, Chris not only missed assembly but part of the first lesson as he had to collect up the empties.

Morning break was about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour and then Chris was out of the last lesson before lunch; he would go to a cupboard to get out the tables for lunch and set them up. Lunch lasted about an hour but the food wasn't as good a quality as at Primary School so Chris ended up taking sandwiches.

The Headteacher decided to clamp down on children talking outside class when lining up for lessons. The whole class (or classes) would, as a consequence, be made to walk around the quadrangle, and again, if any child was suspected of misbehaviour, they got picked out and whacked. You could not speak in class or you would be whacked. This punishment was sometimes administered by the Headteacher with 3 hard whacks of the cane across the palm of your hand.

Chris remembered when the grass had been reseeded around a new Portakabin and the children were forbidden from walking across it to go to the playing fields and had to go up the lane instead. Chris saw that a teacher was taking a shortcut across the re-seed and commented such to a friend. Unfortunately, the comment was overheard and he was physically punished. He remembers too a boy who was always a troublemaker who picked fights with other kids. The one time Chris retaliated of course he was the one who was caught and punished by the cane. But there was no point in telling your parents as they might mete out more punishment.

To make Secondary School more bearable, there was music, history, geography and art at Ansford. There were also swimming lessons which were held at the outdoor swimming pool at Shepton Mallet (still in existence today). Chris felt he could just about swim by the time he was 12 which was just as well, as all the children were lined up along the deep end of the pool and forced to jump in. Not pleasant if you were a non-swimmer. However, the highlight of the day was the return coach journey when the coach stopped at the Evercreech Junction café where they were allowed to go in and have orange squash and a sticky bun.

The trains were still running through Evercreech Junction and pulled by steam engines as this was prior to Dr Beeching's Axe. They did have one school trip on a steam train to London, but this didn't leave much impression on Chris!

Jane Brock

WEATHER REPORT

April saw a welcome reprieve from the wetter previous months with a more normal 55.5mm of rainfall. However soil moisture deficit was at no better than zero meaning the ground is saturated.

Steve Street

80th ANNIVERSARY OF D DAY

6th JUNE 2024

Thinking back to D Day eighty years ago with the men in
convoys all around us preparing to meet a mighty foe.

How can we ever forget when our memories are with us yet.

We will always remember the sacrifices made and of all
the lives that were lost and in foreign fields are laid.

These brave and gallant men answered their country's call and
for our freedom they gave their all.

In my heart they will always stay,
loved and remembered every day.

I am just one of many for all the memories are
with me yet and these words will stay with me forever.

LEST WE FORGET *Betty Whitcher*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday 6 th June	Mobile Library	12.55 – 1.15 Bus shelter
Monday 10 th June	Parish Council Meeting	8pm in the Hut
Saturday 22 nd June	Fete	3pm on the Playing Field
Sunday 30 th June	Communion service	10.30am Babcary church
Saturday 6 th July	Sports Day	2.45pm on the Playing field
Saturday 6 th July	"Raise the Roof" Concert	Babcary church
Every Tuesday	Bell Ringing	6pm in the church
Every Saturday	Community Shop	9.30 – 11am in the hut
Tuesday Evening	Cricket practice	6pm on the Playing field