

# BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

Many thanks to Gary, Sarah and the Playing Field Committee for another successful Road Race. Well done to all our local runners and to the refreshment team who turned up trumps once again.

March is Litter Picking month so we hope to have a good turn-out at 10am on the 9<sup>th</sup> to clear up all the verges and ditches before the spring growth covers it over. The daffodils are already looking a picture.

Deadline for April contributions: 25<sup>th</sup> March

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### PARISH COUNCIL

#### Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Parish Council Draft Minutes 8pm at The Hut

Present :- Councillors - Mr Simon Hoar (SH) , Mr Graham Hughes (GH), Mrs Glynis Kingston (GK) , Mrs Melinda Terleske (MT), Mr Steve Street (SS), Mr Damien Pick (DP) .Mr Philip Sketchley (PS)  
Somerset Councillors - Henry Hobhouse (HH) and Kevin Messenger (KM)  
Apologies - Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk)

Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were approved and signed.

**1. Matters Arising :-**

Pot Holes , the 'sink hole' on the Foddington Road had been filled in , however it was already showing signs of collapse . HH indicated that the work was temporary and a new culvert will be created in due course.

The ditches referred to at the last meeting either side of the lane leading to Olive Farm and other properties was now in a serious condition causing back up of foul water and possible discharge in to ditches. DP reported that the Highways Department had informed landowners that remedial work will be carried out on either the 11<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> March.

20 Plenty Signs , PS referred to an e mail exchange he had had with Highways who had indicated that the removal of signs had not been at their behest and suggested that at least one was possibly by BT . PS will investigate further but in the mean time he will reinstate one sign in the vicinity of "Old School House".

The Council thanked George Kingston for laying additional hardcore around the entrance to the hut.

## 2. Finance

Capital Reserve Account stands at £13227.76 Current account balance is £50. A new savings account with NatWest to be opened with a Balance of £10,000.00 . a cheque in favour of PATA for £47.10 was approved and signed.

## 3. Planning Consultation

Sunny Hill Farm - approved

Newlands Farm - decision awaited.

## 4. Correspondence

Somerset Budget , H M Government had refused the request to increase Council Tax by 10% the Council Tax increase will be 5% as only those Councils subject to a s114 Notice ( impending bankruptcy ) were permitted to increase to 10% . Somerset has taken various radical steps to ensure continued use of facilities such as the Athletics Ground in Yeovil and the refurbishment and reopening of the Octagon being transferred to Yeovil Town Council. In addition the Council will use Capital receipts as part of their Revenue Budget. Hedgehog Highway project - noted but no financial support approved.

Reusable Personal Care drop in events, these were noted.

## 5. AOB

Blockage of Cary Brook at the Meadows. PS had taken this up with Somerset Wildlife following an expression of concern by a parishioner. Somerset Wildlife had been extremely proactive and cleared the brook of logs and debris and avert a flooding danger.

SH raised a request from the PCC concerning works that need doing to the Chancel roof. ( SH and MT declared an interest). The works needed at the Church will cost £60,000, the Church were nearly 50% towards their target and were working hard to raise additional sums through grant making trusts and foundations. The request to the Parish Council was to make a contribution to the building fund. It was agreed that the upkeep of the Church was important as the Church was a huge and well used asset for the village as a whole. The Council had received an indication from the Playing Field Committee that their funds were in a healthy state and for 2024 they would not request a contribution to grass cutting which in 2023 had been £1700. This will benefit the Parish Council budgeting and give the Parish Council the flexibility to earmark a sum as a contribution to the Church roof fund. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council will earmark £2000 with a further review later in the year.

KM raised the issue of the proposal by Somerset Council to close up to five Recycling Centres which would include Dimmer. It was agreed by the Council to support HH and KM in their opposition of the proposed closure which fails to take account of the history of the site , the dangers of increased fly tipping and increased traffic movement to name but a few of the

objections. Parishioners are encouraged to support this protest by signing the petition via the link that was circulated on the village WhatsApp or emailing HH directly .

HH raised the issue of the planning impact that had occurred due to Somerset County Council and the Environment Agency in effect placing an embargo on planning in that area of Somerset that drains into the Levels. A potential claim is being considered, subject to legal advice, challenging this due to the lack of data supporting the embargo.

**5. Date and time of next meeting 8 pm Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March in the Hut**

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### Services

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Babcary</b>	<b>Family service</b>	
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30	Alford	Mothering Sunday	With posies
Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30	N.Barrow	Matins	
Palm Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30	Lovington	Communion	Palm Sunday
Maundy Thursday	28th March	6.30pm	N.Barrow	said service	
Good Friday	29 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30	Hornblotton	Way of the Cross	Meet at the end of the lane
Easter Sunday	31 <sup>st</sup> March	10.30	S.Barrow	communion	

### Church Rotas

	<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Coffee</b>	<b>Sidesmen</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Judy and Sally	Lent – no flowers		Simon & Michele
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Karen and Vee	Lent		
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Tom and Bridget	Lent		
24h March	Nikki and Karen	Lent		
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Rita and Jenny	Mary		
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Simon & Shirley	Mary and Sally		

### STOP PRESS

After a long struggle with the church authorities to find a replacement after Marion, our last priest, had to retire in 2021 they have finally agreed that we can go ahead and find a replacement. Adverts should go out in the next month or two – if you know of any good clergy looking for a plum job as a part time priest in this corner of Somerset please point them in this direction!

# PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

## BABCARY ROAD RACE

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February - Result highlights & local runners

Luke Prior	38.41	outright winner
James Hoar	46.50	
John Teesdale	55.39	
Richard Canterbury	59.00	Best Local Man
Simon Hoar	60.18	
Mark Billige	61.28	
Steve Wildman	69.52	
Caroline Rawlings	83.08	Best Local Woman

### Junior Races

**11-16:** 1<sup>st</sup> boy (and 1<sup>st</sup> Babcary) Sacha Canterbury, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Ebenezer and 3<sup>rd</sup> Oscar Ebenezer

**6-10:** 1<sup>st</sup> boy Charlie Devlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Charlie Spencer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ollie Ebenezer, 1<sup>st</sup> Babcary boy Ali Canterbury  
1<sup>st</sup> girl Poppy Spencer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Phoebe Bright

**5 and under:** 1<sup>st</sup> boy (and 1<sup>st</sup> Babcary) Frankie Norman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jack Norman, 3<sup>rd</sup> William Bright  
1<sup>st</sup> girl (and 1<sup>st</sup> Babcary) Holly Gillespie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Georgia Lyle and 3<sup>rd</sup> Lily Hoar.

Our thanks to the marshals, the scorers, the cake makers and of course Gary & Sarah Tubridy for organising it all.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Shop Rota

2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Sally and Vee	6 <sup>th</sup> April	Rita and Carole
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Jules and Caroline R	13 <sup>th</sup> April	Judy and Jane
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Helen and Teresa	20 <sup>th</sup> April	Jan and Karen
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Lucy and Jenny	27 <sup>th</sup> April	Caroline and TracyAnne
30 <sup>th</sup> March	NO SHOP –EASTER	4 <sup>th</sup> May	Gilli and Shirley

Many thanks to Caroline Rawlings who has kindly volunteered to join the Shop Rota having trained with Rita!

SCH



## **Mobile Library**

Calls at the bus shelter from 12.55 – 1.15pm on March 14<sup>th</sup>

## **BOXING DAY POP LACROSSE!**

Yes, I know that this was a long time ago, and I know that it should have been in the last newsletter, but I did want to thank all the intrepid players who turned out to work off their Christmas excesses.

It never ceases to amaze me that the standard is so high, when most people are beginners and just play once a year. We have our great band of supporters and ball boys (highly necessary due to wild passing: thank you so much Gerald B. this year) and it's always good to see new faces – they don't have to live in Babcary: this year we had players from the US and France, and 2 who were already players from school or university, who showed the rest some lovely stickwork!

So, many thanks to the Hoar tribe: Simon, James, Ken and Callum

The Tubridy tribe: Gary, Tom, Harry, Rosie

Tom B

Caroline S

The Herten Gang: Ed, Aura, Lea, Sam. Lauren and Thierry

.....and we missed you Chloe and Will!

JAH

## **NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS**

Welcome to Eddie and Emily Roberti at Sunny Hill Farm with their young sons Jago and Marley.

Congratulations to Ron Compton who celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday last month

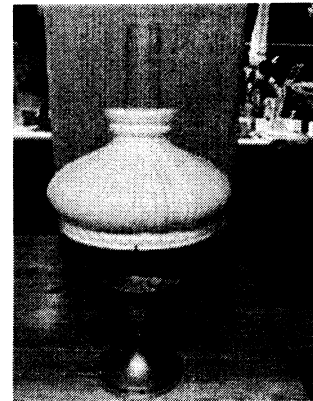
We wish Izzy Tucker a speedy recovery after her nasty car crash

## Life at Wheatlawn Farm - "If it hadn't been made, you didn't have it".

In the last newsletter we learned of The Harrison Family's arrival at Wheatlawn in 1945, three years prior to the birth of Chris. He mentioned that his mother, Mary, had sat down and cried when she arrived at Wheatlawn, arriving with just a few possessions, in a couple of orange boxes. Here's a glimpse of why that might have been.

With no mains water or electricity at all at the farm in 1945, life was a tough prospect. All water had to be pumped up from a well in the back yard by hand. Water was boiled up in a "Copper" a large container, heated by a fire underneath, usually kept in an outhouse and Mary cooked on a paraffin stove. Once a week, the copper would be boiled up with the water taken to a tin bath; a treat on a Sunday night.

When Chris came home from school on the darker nights, the main light (as there was no electricity) would be from an Aladdin oil lamp with an incandescent "Mantle" which Chris still owns. It glowed as brightly as many modern lights. He would come in from school and have his tea of toast and jam or toast and marmalade (all homemade) while his parents would probably make do with bread and dripping. Everything eaten was homemade, if it hadn't been made....you didn't have it. As bedtime beckoned, Chris would go off upstairs at night with a candle to light his way.



Joe and his father, Sidney, grew enough potatoes to last the family all year round. They never had to buy vegetables but always had what was in season from the garden; carrots, beans, sprouts, cauliflowers, root vegetables and peas etc. Of course, with no electricity, there was no refrigerator or deep freezer, and salted runner beans were stored to be eaten over winter.

In fact, Mary virtually never went shopping but instead, everyone came to her. The baker would come Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays, the fishmonger (Caseys) would come once a week from Wincanton and the butcher would call; either from Keinton Mandeville (where the current village store is sited) or Lush in Castle Cary which had a slaughterhouse at the back. Groceries were delivered from Martins in Castle Cary or the Co-op and she would give her order in for the next week when they called.

A draper would also visit once per month. And there was a salesman who came around on his bike. The bike wasn't for riding but was hung with suitcases containing all types of clothing and Mary would buy undergarments this way. This was presumably cheaper for the salesman than buying a van to do the rounds but must have involved a lot of walking. There was also the Kleeneze salesman who would call to sell mops. So, home deliveries as we have today are not so new after all.

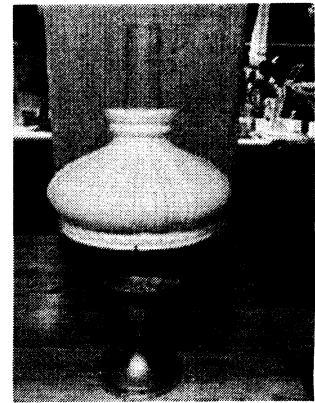
Jane Brock

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Jane Brock

## **BABCARY LITTER PICK**

**SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024 MEETING @ 10AM @ THE HUT**

We are planning another Babcary and Foddington Litter Pick on Saturday 9th March, meeting at the Hut at 10am. One of our talented Baristas will be providing coffee beforehand to get everyone through the morning's exertions!

Litter 'grab sticks' will be available. High vis' vests will also be available in various sizes at the Hut.

We would ask everyone to come with their own gloves and any tough old bin/compost bags so that we can avoid using too many new plastic bags to gather old rubbish (they are also more robust!)

We'll aim to have a car collecting full bags of rubbish throughout the morning.

Blossom Hill bottles, Thatcher's cider cans, vaping wrappers, car parts or McDonalds detritus

– who will be the “winner” this year?

## **WEATHER REPORT**

Babcary received over 40mm of rainfall during the first week of January 2024 followed by 2 weeks with no rain at all however rain returned towards the end of the month resulting in a finishing total of 62.2mm (almost 2½ inch). This is just below our long-term average of 71mm for the month of January.

**Steve Street**