

BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

What better sound on a Tuesday evening than the ringing of the Church bells and the thwack of leather on willow! The bells are still ringing, but as the nights have drawn in the cricket has ceased. Many thanks to Richard Canterbury for getting the fledgling team off the ground and organising their first match. They played brilliantly against Ditchat at the end of August and we look forward to seeing them in action again next season.

Deadline for November contributions: 15th October (slightly earlier than usual due to the printing team being away).

Email: carolehartnell@googlemail.com.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 9th September 2024 Parish Council Draft Minutes 8pm at The Hut

Present: Mr Simon Hoar, Mr Philip Sketchley, Mrs Melinda Terleske, Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mr Graham Hughes, Mr Damien Pick, Mr Kevin Messenger (Somerset Councillor), Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

Apologies: Mr Steve Street & Mr Henry Hobhouse (Somerset Councillor).

1) Matters Arising

i) Sinkhole, ditches & local potholes. Several potholes have been successfully repaired, leak adjacent Arden House repaired and the drain covers cleared BUT the pipe repair adjacent to Olive Farm Lane, Foddington Road remains unfixed. John Nicholson subsequently made contact with PS re further delay on works 9th of September, it has now been 2 years and 3 months since original complaint! Kiers are now in charge of the maintenance, Keir guarantee their works for 2 years but as yet no action! Messages have been forwarded to Andy Coupe, Strategic Manager for Infrastructure SSCC. The Parish Council resolved to commence formal complaint to

Somerset Council and cc Sarah Dyke MP. DP's property has been stable but any large influx of water causes flooding and resurgence of raw sewage!

2) Finance

Capital Reserve Account stands at £15,149.93 Current Account balance £50. Monthly statement approved.

SALC £80.70 inv 0917Affiliation fee Cheque raised and signed.

3) Planning Consultation

- i) COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY ANNUAL REPORT, Clerk to locate any CIL payments for 2023/24.
- ii) Newlands Farm – still awaiting.
- iii) Planning Notification 24/019893 Craddocks Farm notification of plan to create a pond, not larger than 0.5 hectares, notification only.
- iv) Steart Hill Truck Services Hopkins Development, the parish council resolved to oppose the planned new Steart Hill lorry services and hotel.
BPC objected Decision Awaited
- v) 24/00841 Land OS 6143 Sparkford Road, West Camel, BA22 7
Any updates?

4) Correspondence

- i) Litter & Dog waste bins charges £7 per month fee now payable
- ii) Leak outside Arden House, Foddington Lane, subsequently fixed.
- iii) Training Events
- iv) SALC Health & Wellbeing
- v) Civility & Respect, taking the pledge, September Newsletter, SALC
- vi) Invitation to Somerset Armed Forces Partnership Conference 2024, Weds 23/10/24 Bridgewater, details forwarded, SALC
- vii) Clerks, 04/09/24 told of meeting planned 02/10/24 FODO Higginson attending to talk about Community Health re support & grant scheme.
Next Clerks Meeting Wednesday 18 September 2024, 10.30am - 11.00am for follow-up questions and any feedback re the Enhanced Highway Maintenance (EHM) Pilot and Volunteer Scheme, post launch.

5) AOB

- i) Two members of the public raised the issue of car parking in Church Street following the post on the Resident's Whatsapp group. It was confirmed that parking there is unrestricted but that people should, as far as possible, avoid parking in front of gates and driveways BUT recognising that this is not always achievable. Like parking elsewhere in the village at peak times, or during building works for example, it requires give and take and goodwill on all sides when there is congestion.

- ii) Public Pathway gate adjacent to Old School, top pin has been sorted but the bottom pin is inaccessible. Not PC land SH to approach Somerset Council.
- iii) KM called for local landowners to check gullies & drains for leaf blockages, clear before winter weather sets in.

6) Date and Time of Next Meeting: 8pm Monday 14th of October 2024 in the Hut.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Services

Sunday	6 th Oct	10.30	N.Barrow	Communion	
Sunday	13 th Oct	10.30pm	Alford	Family service	Harvest
Sunday	20 th Oct	10.30	Lovington	Matins	
Sunday	27 th Oct	10.30	S.Barrow	S.Barrow	
Sunday	3 rd Nov	10.30	Alford	Family service	Patronal festival

Church Rotas

	Cleaning	Flowers	Coffee	Sidesmen
6 th October	Rita and Jenny	Su		
13 th October	Simon & Shirley	Karen		
20 th October	Jan and Lucy	Rita		
27 th October	Sarah and Sarah	Jo		
3 rd November	Elisabeth & Mary	Teresa		

A new priest for the Six Pilgrims

Our two adverts for a new priest have not produced a result yet so we are trying again. Closing date early November.

Chancel Roof Repairs

Thanks to everyone who helped/contributed in any way; we have raised £70,000 and the chancel now has a splendid new roof. Do take a look the next time you are passing – we hope it will be leakproof for as long as the previous tiles (150 years). Particular thanks are due to Rory MacDiarmid who managed to source/squeeze/cajole/bludgeon grants from all manner of national and local charities to cover more than half the cost.

The church is now in as good condition as it has ever been (not that the maintenance ever ends). It was built, cared for (and paid for) by our predecessors, the people who lived in our houses for countless generations, for over a thousand years. Their passing is recorded in the old church registers, the headstones in the churchyard and most obviously in the church building itself. Interestingly the church has not always been well cared for; in the early 19th century it was semi derelict with leaking roof and rotting timbers and this eventually led to the massive refurbishment, extension *and new roof* of the church in 1875.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

We had an enjoyable Harvest Supper on 9th September with good food, good company and great entertainment! 72 people squeezed into the “verandah marquee”, which was more than we anticipated, but at least we were warm and dry on such a rainy night.

Many thanks to everyone who kindly made apple pies, which were all to a very high standard! There were plenty for both the meal and the auction. The meat from Staceys of Somerton turned out to be very good too, now that Sycamore Farm has closed.

What talent we have in Babcary with our superb singers, Isla, Harry, Jazz and Paul and our double bass player, Richard! They entertained us with some lovely pieces. Not to mention the indomitable Nikki keeping her musicians and the pop-up choir on track. A good round of “Fling it here” has become a must on Harvest Supper night.

We also had a raffle and the lucky prize winners were Izzy’s Grandma, Janet Bailey, Phil Sketchley, Rory MacDiarmid, Keith Robson, Izzy Tucker, Sue, Ty Evans and Brian Kingston.

Where would we be without Dave to do the auction? We nearly didn’t have him due to a protest in London! He raised a good laugh and some phenomenal sums for the pies, cakes, Ty’s amazing sausage rolls and Rita’s show-stopping Harvest box. It was a great way to round off the evening.

PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

BONFIRE NIGHT

Babcare Bonfire Night this year is 6pm on **Saturday 2nd November**. A huge bonfire, a Hog Roast, big bar and of course, terrific fireworks. Parking on the playing field (but please arrive on foot if you can as space will be at a premium).

Bonfire site

The bonfire site is again open for the deposit of 100% combustible garden waste and timber **only**. We have just had to pay a huge sum of money to have the accumulated mountain of ash, scrap metal, bricks, glass, tiles etc removed.

Clock Golf Tournament

The Clock Golf competition was rained off *twice* this year so we have rolled it over to next year.

****Village Cricket Thriller: Babcary vs. Ditchheat Ends in Narrow Defeat****

On a grey overcast evening, the long-awaited return of Babcary Cricket Club to competitive action took place after an almost 30-year hiatus. Taking on neighbouring Ditchheat Cricket Club, the atmosphere was electric with eager spectators lining the boundary, ready for an exciting contest.

The Babcary team, resplendent in their baggy pale blue caps, adorned with the village emblem, stopped for a team photo before the game. All eager to get on with the game.

Ditchheat was put into bat first, but Babcary's bowlers were quick to set the tone, restricting them to 113 runs off 17 overs. James Pout led the attack with some magnificent bowling, his tight line and length causing trouble for the Ditchheat batsmen. There were also some thrilling moments in the field, with the cat-like reflexes of wicketkeeper Charlie Gillespie taking two stunning catches, much to the delight of the crowd.

When Babcary went into bat, they showed resilience and determination. Opener Patrick Legg retiring on 30 after a composed innings, helping to provide a solid foundation for the subsequent batsmen. Despite the strong start, Babcary fell just short of their target, finishing 12 runs shy of victory. However, considering this was our first game in nearly three decades, the result was nothing short of impressive, especially given that Ditchheat play regularly.

The evening wrapped up with a fantastic celebration at the Red Lion, where players and supporters alike reflected on the thrilling game. Spirits were high as Babcary looked ahead to next season, confident that with more games under their belt, many victories await. RC

"inconsequentia est primula"

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Shop Rota

5 th October	Vee and Sally	2 nd November	No Shop – Bonfire Night
12 th October	Jules and Caroline R	9 th November	Rita and Carole
19 th October	Helen and Teresa	16 th November	Judy and Lesley
26 th October	Lucy and Jenny	23 rd November	Jan and Karen
		30 th November	No Shop – Christmas Bazaar

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Recycle

Please recycle clean, unwanted cotton fabrics and plastic shower curtains at Rose Cottage, Babcary. Items can be left in the blue box in the lay by.

My sewing friends are making 'School Bags' - these fabrics will become sustainable sanitary items and bags for girls in need to be distributed in schools and international schools.

Thank you in advance, Gilli Salmons

Mobile Library

Calls at the bus shelter from 12.55 – 1.15pm on the 24th October

NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Congratulations to Steve Wildman for completing the epic Lands End to John O' Groats cycle ride in aid of the Alzheimers Society.

Congratulations to Esme Ellis on her outstanding performance at the recital on 31st August. She sang a variety of songs from different centuries and in other languages. Her introductions and to the songs made them all the more interesting. Many thanks also to Nikki for her brilliant piano-playing which must have required hours of practice. It was good to see a full Church and £244 was raised towards the roof as an added bonus!

BABCARY QUIZTIME

There will be a **POPPY APPEAL Quiz Night** on **Saturday 9th November** from 7.30 in the Hut. Come along and rattle those brain cells. Soup in the interval and all the madcap excitement of a raffle too! What's not to love?! Please come along and support; book a table. Contact Ann on 07932 990627 or email her at anncannon123@outlook.com. £2 each per quiz member.

In aid of the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

WEATHER REPORT

August was a return to drier conditions following a wet July. A total of 31mm of rain fell in Babcary during August mostly in the last two weeks of the month. Throughout August, reservoir levels continued to decrease with Wessex Water ending the month at 63% capacity.

Steve Street

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 14 th Oct	Parish Council	8pm in the Hut
Thursday 24 th October	Mobile Library	Bus shelter 12.55 – 1.15pm
Saturday 2 nd November	Bonfire Night	Playing Field from 6pm
Saturday 9 th November	Poppy Appeal Quiz night	7.30pm in the Hut

Every Tuesday	Bell Ringing	Church 6pm
Every Saturday	Community Shop	Hut 9.30 – 11am