

BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

We hope you enjoy this village Christmas line-up and wish you all a very Happy Christmas!

Deadline for February edition: 28th January

Email: carolehartnell@googlemail.com.



Christmas in Babcary



Christmas Bazaar – Saturday 30th Nov, 3pm in the Church

Christingle Service – Sunday 1st Dec, 4.30pm in the Church

Christmas Tree decorating – Saturday 14th Dec, 10.30 Village Green

Bab Cary Village Christmas Card – from Sat 14th Dec in the Church

Children's Trip to the Pantomime – Saturday 14th Dec

Carol Singing – Friday 20th Dec, 6pm from Arden House

Christmas Shop – Saturday 21st Dec 9.30 onwards in the Hut

Church Christmas Tree decorating – Mon 23rd from 10am in the Church

Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Service, 5pm in the Church

Pop Lacrosse – Saturday 28th - 11am on the Playing Field

Please note: The Village Christmas Card, the Carol Singing around the village and the Christmas Eve Carol Service are all in aid of Children's Hospice South West; a very worthy charity that we have supported for many years. We hope to raise over £1,000 again this year so please give generously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 11th November 2024 Parish Council Draft Minutes 8pm at The Hut

Present: Mr Simon Hoar (SH, Chair), Mr Philip Sketchley (PS), Mrs Glynis Kingston (GK) Mr Damien Pick (DP), Mr Graham Hughes (GH), Mr Steve Street (SS), Mrs V Vyner (VV), Mr Henry Hobhouse (HH, County Councillor) & Mrs Jasmine Tucker (JT, Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Mr Kevin Messenger, (KM, County Councillor).

1) Matters Arising

- i. Sinkhole, ditches & local potholes. Pipe repair adjacent to Olive Farm Lane, Foddington Road. Potholes are still a problem, especially outside Perry House. GH reported road problems, some works on the roads were completed, but some are yet to be addressed.
John Nicholson has scheduled repairs for Olive Farm, 06/12/2024, supported by Sarah Dyke.
- ii. Public Pathway gate adjacent to The Old School on Church Street. SH has approached Somerset Council, new gate approved, awaiting completion.
- iii. Gate in river under bridge, next to Greystones Has been moved to allow free running water, no longer a dam.
- iv. Request for donation from CAB, agreed unanimously £100.
- v. Vee Vyner was welcomed on to the parish council, co-opted to fill the casual vacancy. GH proposed Vee & PS seconded.

2) Finance

- i. Capital Reserve Account stands at £15,168.59 Current Account balance £50.
ICO £40 due December
Dog Poop bags £11.49 JT agreed
Clerks Wages, review next meeting.
PS, Website fees £83.75 agreed
CAB donation £100 agreed

3) Planning Consultations

- i. None

4) Correspondence

- i. Code of Conduct Training, PS elected to go on course, remote learning £25. Booked for 13/11/24, November is SALC Code of Conduct month
- ii. Mendip plan update, latest biannual update on Land Supply, the Local Plan for Somerset, now available on line. 5 year Housing Land Supply Update.
- iii. One, network presentation/training session, UK wide map of current, planned & historical roadworks, events (LCN).
When 6-7pm, 19th of November, online. Contact michelle.brooks@somerset.gov.uk

- iv. October LCN Meeting restructure of start of engagement process, Somerset Council restructure, ending in December, attended by JT (Parish Clerk). Fodo, SALC, Health & Wellbeing in the council & in the community. Again grants are available for community projects, e.g. improve local transport, providing open spaces for local community. Any project best to organize before setting precept. Evaluating Health & Wellbeing.
- v. Annual General Meeting of Somerset Association of Local Councils, 3pm, 13th of November, during Somerset Parishes Conference 2024.
- vi. Somerset River Authority (SRA) Grants, between £3k-£20k, available to help reduce flooding, email gives ideas that might be helpful when applying for a grant.

5) AOB

- i) DP raised issue of pull ins around Babcary Village have been destroyed by increased traffic flow from new Dual Carriageway. Previous suggestions of remediation not followed up, SH to chase Somerset Highways.
- ii) HH A303 opening Thursday 14th at Haynes Motor Museum.
- iii) Flooding on Podimore roundabout proving a bone of contention. Section 19 reports on River Cam flooding are inadequate, records do not do the extent of the flooding justice.
- iv) Hopkins latest truck parking development has been delayed, death rate at Steart Hill had been overlooked, being reassessed.

6) Date and Time of Next Meeting: 8pm Monday 9th of December 2024 in the Hut and then 13th January 2025.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Breaking News

Interviews were held on Weds 27th Nov by the Bishop of Bath & Wells (and our churchwardens) to appoint a new priest for the Six Pilgrims – the post having been vacant for three years. It is with very great pleasure that we can announce the appointment of..... someone! It's such hot news that as at 28th November we're embargoed from giving out his name. More soon.

Services

Sunday	1st Dec	4.30pm	Babcary	Candlelight	Christingle Service
Sunday	8 th Dec	10.30	S.Barrow	Communion	
Sunday	15th Dec	10.30	Babcary	Matins	
Sunday	22 nd Dec	10.30	Hornblotton	Communion	
Christmas Eve	24th Dec	5pm	Babcary	Candlelight	Christmas Carols
Christmas Day	25th Dec	10am	Lovington	Communion	
Sunday	29 th Dec	10.30	Alford	Communion	
Sunday	5 th Jan	10.30	N.Barrow	Family service	
Sunday	12 th Jan	10.30	Lovington	Communion	
Sunday	19th Jan	10.30	S.Barrow	Matins	
Sunday	26th Jan	10.30	Babcary	Communion	
Sunday	2 nd Feb	10.30	Hornblotton	Family service	

Churchyard Clear Up - Many thanks to the famous few who worked on despite the weather and the cancellation of the clear up!

CHURCH ROTAS

	Cleaning	Flowers	Coffee	Sidesmen
1 st December	Nikki and Karen	Advent-no flowers		Robin & Michele
8 th December	Rita and Jenny	Advent-no flowers		
15 th December	Simon & Shirley	Advent-no flowers		
22 nd December		Christmas-all hands		All hands
5 th January	Sarah and Sarah	Rita		
12 th January	Elisabeth & Mary	Jo		

Yellow magazine donation envelopes – please pass these on to Simon Hoar, Robin Brown or Rory McD to help fund this free service. Many thanks

The Christmas Festivities

Christingle

We have a candlelight Christingle service here on Sunday 1st Dec at 4.30pm. The children are all invited to come along and receive a Christingle - and *then* they can eat the sweets!

Village Christmas Tree decorating – on Saturday 14th Dec

At 10.30 the village children are all invited to come along to help decorate the village tree on the Green by the church and then turn on the lights. If you have any leftover decorations – the bigger the better - donations would be welcome! And our thanks to Paul and Irene at Church Farm for the power supply to the Christmas lights.

Don't send any Christmas cards this year to your friends and neighbours in Babcary!

Instead we have a big village Christmas card in the church for everyone to sign and you can make a donation to the Children's Hospice South West by putting some money in the wall safe behind the door. The card will be sitting on the font and ready to sign from Sat 14th Dec.

Church Christmas Tree

Everyone is invited to come round to the church from 10am on Monday 23rd Dec to help decorate the tree in the church.

Carol Singing around the village – 6pm on Friday 20th Dec.

Meet by Arden House (the Kingston's) and we'll work our way down through the village ending up with a few refreshments by very kind invitation of the Pitts at The Old Stables. Bring a torch and a strong voice. We will be collecting for the Children's Hospice South West so please have some cash ready – and dig deep.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Service



At 5pm on Christmas Eve this is the really magical celebration of Christmas for which Babcary is famous. The church will be packed so if you need a seat please arrive early. There will be a collection on the way out for the Children's Hospice South West.

PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Babcary Road Race

Advance notice for Babcary Road Race which will be run on Sunday 23rd February. 7.5 miles of sheer pleasure from here to S.Barrow, N.Barrow and back via Foddington. Entry for Babcary residents is only £5. Email Gary@avalonsciences.com to register. The results are age graded.

This may be the last ever Babcary Road Race unless we can find someone to take it on from Gary Tubridy who, with Sarah and the sponsorship of Avalon Sciences, has been running it for over 20 years.

Bonfire Night

Thanks to George and Emily for running the splendid fireworks and the bonfire again this year. Likewise, thanks to the hog roast and catering team, the parking marshals, the gate keepers and the bar staff. In all, we had 21 volunteers working flat out all evening to lay it on. We had fantastic weather, record numbers of people and the hog roast, beer, cider and soft drinks all sold out – bravo!

Bonfire Site

Please note that the bonfire site is now CLOSED to all donations until September next year. If you see anyone putting anything on it, please take a picture of the vehicle and let us know. It is costing a great deal of money to remove the non-combustible waste that has accumulated over the years.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

POP LACROSSE SATURDAY DECEMBER 28TH 11-12 NOON.

This year the annual pop-lacrosse fest will be held, not on Boxing Day, but on the Saturday after Christmas. As always, no knowledge of the game is needed – all equipment provided – played on the village tennis court. All you need is a pair of trainers, a bit of puff and a chance to shake down the Christmas fare! I'll be there and look forward to seeing a few hardy souls: 8 year olds to 80 year olds welcome!

JAH

Shop Rota

7 th December	Caroline & Tracyanne	4 th January	Sally and Vee
14 th December	Gilli and Shirley	11 th January	Jules and Caroline
21 st December	Christmas Shop	18 th January	Helen and Teresa
28 th December	No Shop	25 th January	Lucy and Jenny
		1 st February	Rita and Carole

We hope to see everyone at the **Christmas Shop** on Saturday 21st December where there will be free mulled wine and lots of Christmassy things to buy!

Mobile Library

Calls at the bus shelter from 12.55 – 1.15pm on the 19th December

NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS

A warm welcome to Giles and Lucy Bark-Jones, and their children Charlotte, Sophie and Thomes (at Millfield) in The Brambles in Main St (the new house).

Any views? The noticeboard at the end of North Street was blown down in Storm Bert and was damaged. Do people feel that we still look at and need a noticeboard in an age of social media?

Any views? The bench on the corner by the church is rotting away. Would you like to see it replaced by a longer lasting but expensive teak bench or would a recycled plastic bench be greener/longer lasting?

WEATHER REPORT

After the record-breaking rainfall in the previous month, the wet weather continued into October with Babcary receiving another 108.4mm (4.26") of rain which is 30% more than out long-term average. There was rain through most of the month but from 6th to 8th and 13th to 18th were particularly wet periods. Wessex reservoirs are at 95% capacity.

Steve Street

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday 30 th November	Christmas Bazaar	Babcary Church 3pm
Sunday 1 st December	Christingle	Babcary Church 4.30pm
Saturday 14 th December	Christmas Tree decorating	Village green 10.30am
Sunday 15 th December	Matins service	Babcary Church 10.30am
Thursday 19 th December	Mobile library	Bus shelter 12.55-1.15am
Friday 20 th December	Carol singing	From Arden House 6pm
Saturday 21 st December	Christmas shop	Hut 9.30 onwards
Monday 23 rd December	Decorating the church tree	In the church 10am onwards
Christmas Eve	Candlelight Carol service	Babcary Church 5pm
Christmas Day	Communion service	Lovington Church 10am
Saturday 28 th December	Pop Lacrosse	Playing Field 11am
Sunday 26 th January	Communion service	Babcary Church 10.30am
Every Tuesday	Bell ringing	6pm in the church
Every Saturday	Community shop	9.30 – 11am in the hut