

BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

BABCARY ROAD RACE SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 11am ON THE PLAYING FIELD

Calling all runners, supporters and bakers! We hope to have a good crop of local runners for this 7.5 mile run to South and North Barrow and back, with plenty of people to cheer them on. There will also be races for children on the Playing Field and up the hill. The refreshment team would be very grateful to anyone who could bake a cake for the event.

Many thanks to Judy Herten for trawling through the old PCC minute book, 1920-1945, and extracting some fascinating snippets from this otherwise dry and dusty archive. See inside for the first instalment.

Deadline for March edition: 24th February

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARISH COUNCIL

Babcary Parish Council
Monday 9th December 2024 8pm at The Hut

Present: Mr Simon Hoar (Chairman), Mr Damien Pick, Mr Steve Street, Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mr Kevin Messenger (County Councillor) & Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: Mr Philip Sketchley (Vice Chair), Mr Graham Hughes, Mr Henry Hobhouse and Mrs V Vyner.

1) Matters Arising

- i. Sinkhole, ditches & local potholes, Mr Damien Pick has had no further updates
- ii. Public Pathway gate adjacent to The Old School on Church Street. SH has approached Somerset Council, new kissing gate approved, awaiting completion.
- iii. 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 up with Somerset Highways.

2) Finance

- i. Capital Reserve Account stands at £14,988.30 Current Account balance £50.
ICO £40 due December
Clerks Wages £1200 approved

3) Planning Consultation

- i. Location: Craddocks Farm, Foddington, TA11 7EL
Applicant: Mr Guy Shearer
App No: 24/0717/FUL
Proposal: Creation of a replacement dwelling along with the demolition of the existing agricultural building which benefits from full planning permission for its conversion to residential uses (ref 23/02717FUL)
PS has given his review of the details supplied, no objections but would preferably like to see the site prior to demolition to get a better understanding of proposed replacement.
Comments welcomed by 18 December 2024.
No objection
- ii. Erection of single dwelling & creation of associated access
Land adjoining Dove Cottage, Formerly Shurlock Row, North Street,
Ref 22/00726/FUL awaiting decision.
No objection

4) Correspondence

- i. Somerset Validation Consultation, runs until 12 noon on Monday 23/12/2024.
Link <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/planning/local-validation-checklist-consultation>
Key purpose to improve the quality/completeness of planning applications made to the council.
- ii) SALC Newsletter, forwarded to all Councillors.

- iii) South Western Railways Customer & Community Improvement Fund, Ally Laing Somerset gov.

Draft Minutes
Babcary Parish Council
Monday 13th January 2025 8pm at The Hut

Present: Mr Simon Hoar, Chairman (SH), Mr Philip Sketchley, Vice Chairman (PS), Mrs Glynis Kingston (GK), Mrs Vee Vyner (VV), Mr Graham Hughes (GH), Mr Damien Pick (DP), Mr Henry Hobhouse, County Councillor (HH), 1 Member of the Public (MP) and Mrs Jasmine Tucker, Parish Clerk (JT).

Apologies: Kevin Messenger, Steve Street

1) Matters Arising

- iv. DP raised issue of pull-ins around Babcary Village having been destroyed by increased traffic flow from new Dual Carriageway. SH reported that Somerset Council are speaking to the A303 contractor about this.
- v. Pipe Repair adjacent to Olive Farm Lane, Foddington Road, Babcary
PS can now report that the repair to the drains and under road pipe work was eventually completed w/c Dec 16th and that the drainage is now, at long last, working correctly.
However,
1) Damage to stopcock covers to water mains, Wessex Water have shown concern ref damage to their asset, meeting in regards planned with John Nicholson, Assistant Highway Service Manager for the end of January.
2) Covering of the ends to the new pipe, zero structural integrity.
3) Curvature of tarmac onto adjacent road, poorly finished, concerns that continued heavy usage & weather will quickly degrade the area.
BPC awaits comments and feedback on our observations.
Since BPC meeting on the 13th, Mr John Nicholson has responded to confirm the aforementioned meeting with Wessex Water to rectify damage sustained through initial works & to confirm the works have yet to be signed off or paid for.
- iii) Pot Holes, 19 Pot Holes were photographed and reported this month to www.somerset.gov.uk
Sunny Hill Farm & Dilkes Lane Potholes being amongst the most concerning holes, Council has highlighted them for fixing. Please note rectifying potholes cannot be undertaken by anyone outside of the County Council due to liability.
- iv) Mel Goymer attended meeting to raise concerns about the use of Babcary church allotments. The allotments are not within the remit of the Parish Council and there are no planning issues and her concerns were referred to the Parochial Church Council. It was confirmed that there was plenty of space for more allotments if anyone else wanted one.

2) Finance

- ii. Capital Reserve Account stands at £13,676.81 Current Account balance £50.
ICO £40 posted, due 23/01/25
Review of 2024 YE Accounts.
Setting the Precept for 25/26. Return form by 31/01/2025.
Parish Precept unanimously agreed at £5,130.00 for 2025/26, a 4% increase in the Band D charge.

3) Planning Consultation

- i. Location: Underhill Farm Foddington Road Bab Cary Somerton Somerset TA11 7EF
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Kingston
Proposal: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a Proposed Use; The provision of a mobile home (caravan) within the existing lawful planning unit to provide additional accommodation for a family member as part of one household.
- ii) Impending sale of the Old Chapel fields. A preplanning enquiry has been submitted.

4) Correspondence

- ii. Jacqui James, Bumblebee Conservation part of a research team from the University of Cambridge researching the benefits of meadow restoration for bumblebees in Somerset, focuses on the shrill carder bumblebee which has declined rapidly over the past 60 years and is now only found in five locations in the UK, one of which is in Somerset. Some research will be conducted on farmland in the parish of Bab Cary. Jacqui would like to let the local community know about the project. A short article about our bumblebee conservation research will be in parish newsletter/magazine.
- iii. Loud Music complaint, re The Red Lion dated 20/12/24, anonymous complaint noted.
- iv. Due to continuing severe weather in all areas of Somerset we are EXTENDING our Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEPP).
This will be in place until the morning of Friday (10/01/25) when it will be reviewed.
Severe Weather Emergency Provision in Somerset has two aims:
 - To ensure that no one dies on the streets due to severe weather
 - To ensure that every effort is made to engage individuals with supportTo access this service, call the numbers below as early as possible.
During office hours: 0300 123 22 24
Outside of office hours (before midnight): 0300 123 23 27
Concerns regarding Baker Street flooding on a regular basis in wet season, SH to take issue forward, main concern off flow to River Cary, contact SRA, Somerset Rivers Authority.
- v. SALC Jan 2025 Newsletter, forwarded to all Parish Councillors!!
- vi. Somerset Council Recycling news.... Empty tubes of toothpaste can now be recycled!! Just check the tube, if it's a yes, pop it in your Blue Bag.
- vii. Do you have a query about your water bill, how to save water and prevent blockages, or your water and sewerage services?
Wessex Water will be holding drop-in sessions at Yeovil Library on 10 February, 14 April, and 9 June to answer all of your water related questions. These sessions will run between 10am-12pm and 1pm-2pm.
To find out more, visit: <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/community-drop-ins>

5) Date and Time of Next Meeting: 8pm Monday 10th of February 2025 in the Hut.

Lambing & dogs

At this time of year please take particular care to keep dogs on a lead (and close gates behind you) when near livestock. Farmers can, and will, take direct action if their lambs are threatened. We've recently had instances of fatal dog attack on a cat and on some ducks. The actions of dogs are the legal responsibility of their owners.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

New priest for the Six Pilgrims

We are delighted to be able to say that the Revd Pip Martin from Poole has been appointed as the new priest for the Six Pilgrims. He will not start until the beginning of June but it is a huge relief after four years of vacancy. More about Pip next month.

From Judy Herten's extracts from the PCC minute book 1920-1945: In March 1938 the PCC was considering the sort of person who would be suitable to become the new rector of Babcary and strongly recommended that he (obviously!) should be "a married man, of middle age, probably with children, *with a substantial private income*".

Services

Sunday	2 nd Feb	10.30	Hornblotton	Family service	
Sunday	9 th Feb	10.30	Alford	Communion	
Sunday	16 th Feb	10.30	N.Barrow	Matins	
Sunday	23 rd Feb	10.30	Lovington	Communion	
Sunday	2 nd Mar	10.30	S.Barrow	Family service	

CHURCH ROTAS

	Cleaning	Flowers	Coffee	Sidesmen
2 nd February	Nikki and Karen	Lucy		
9 th February	Rita and Jenny	Su		
16 th February	Simon & Shirley	Karen		
23 rd February	Jan and Lucy	Rita		
2 nd March	Sarah and Sarah	Jo		

Christmas Past

Our thanks to everyone who helped make Christmas here so special. The Carol Singing through the village raised £287, the village Christmas card in the church raised £95 and the packed out Christmas Eve Carol Service raised £750. In total we were able to send a cheque for £1,132 to the Children's Hospice South West. Thanks also to Paul Cuff for the "Holy Cross" illuminating the top of the church (and most of Somerset besides) and to Paul and Irene for lighting the village tree on the green and the Community Committee for providing the tree. Lovely to see even Gassons Bridge decorated for the season.

Church Allotments

If anyone would like to make use of the allotments behind the churchyard please contact Simon Hoar on 07904 344453 as there is more space available.

Church Electoral Roll

The church electoral roll (nothing to do with the civil political electoral roll) is currently up for renewal. See church notice board. Forms available from Rory McD or Simon Hoar.

Soup & Quiz Night

Saturday 22nd Feb 7 for 7.30pm at North Barrow Hall. Entry £10 includes food. BYO bottle. Bumper hamper top prize.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

It seems a long time ago now, but the Christmas Bazaar just missed the last newsletter of 2024. We were thrilled that so many of you came and supported us, enabling us to raise £867; our best Bazaar for three years! Many thanks to Lucy and her team who made so many beautiful decorations for the Christmas Stall and to Judy for an exceptional sideshow with great prizes. There were plenty of ideas for Christmas presents on Gilli's Craft Stall and Helen's Bulb Stall. Julie put in a lot of work to produce a Children's Tombola, which was much enjoyed by the children, and we were grateful to those of you who contributed cakes, sweets and raffle prizes.

The raffle prize winners were Debbie c/o Teresa Rhodes, Brian Hartnell, Tom Clark, Nikki Hewson, Teresa Gilbert, Sarah Tubridy, Elisabeth Rutherford, Lesley Morland, Graham Hughes, Rosie Sage, Ty Evans, Dan Hurring, Phil Sketchley, Sue Hamlin and Annie Gillespie.

PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Babcary Road Race Sunday 23rd Feb

The annual road race starts at 11am from the playing field. A special reduced rate entry is available for Babcary entrants (email gary@avalonsciences.com) but you must register in advance. It's a lovely route along the lanes to South Barrow and back via North Barrow crossroads and Foddington. Fortunately the results are age graded and there are prizes galore. During the main race there is a series of short age graded children's races run on/from the playing field – entry on the day.

The usual *legendary refreshments* are available in the hut and, assuming it's a warm sunny day, do please line the route and cheer on the runners and make it another epic event.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Shop Rota

1 st February	Rita and Carole	1 st March	Gilli and Shirley
8 th February	Judy and Lesley	8 th March	Sally and Vee
15 th February	Jan and Karen	15 th March	Jules and Caroline
22 nd February	Caroline and Tracyanne	22 nd March	Helen and Teresa
		29 th March	Lucy and Jenny

Mobile Library

Calls at the bus shelter from 12.55 – 1.15pm on the 27th February.

Poppy Appeal

I am very pleased to announce that Babcary and Foddington have raised a tremendous amount of money for the 2024 Poppy Appeal.

Having now received the total from head office of the mobile scanned donations; the final total raised is £924.24.

Well done!

Ann Cannon

Many thanks to Ann for single-handedly organising the Poppy Day Quiz in November. As the photos on WhatsApp testify, it was a superb evening's entertainment. Ann also secured some amazing raffle prizes and the total she managed to raise for the Royal British Legion was double that of previous years!

Ed

Pop Lacrosse 2024

Despite the organiser changing her long established date from Boxing Day to the Saturday following Christmas Day, it is important to recognise the devotion of the Tubridy family to this somewhat strange 'tradition' that has grown up over the last 25 or so years.

A dismal morning was considerably improved by the enthusiasm of Gary, Harry and Harry's girlfriend Romey, who armed with sticks and balls, spent time and energy running round the tennis court mainly practising shooting for 15 damp minutes, while Sarah and the organiser remained in the car.

It's important not to let such events pass from village memory, so let's hope for better weather this year!

JAH

NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Congratulations to Dawn McLeod who celebrated her 90th birthday in December. I believe she is Babcary's 4th nonagenarian.

Congratulations to Gerald and Jane Brock on the birth of their second grandchild, Sebastian, on 13th January – a son for Tom and Vicky.

Weather Report

November

Babcary received 82.6mm of rainfall during November, again higher than our long-term monthly average. Most of the rain occurred during the latter part of the month with Storm Bert giving us 38mm over the weekend of the 23rd/24th.

December

December marked a shift away from the wetter weather of the previous three months with Babcary receiving 38.3mm of rainfall mostly at the beginning and middle of the month. Our annual total for 2024 was 1032.4mm which is the highest on our records (going back to 1980) beating the previous record in 2012 by 31.8mm (1.25"). For the region it is the fifth wettest year on record since 1871.

Steve Street

From the archives

In April 2020 Babcary PCC unwittingly missed its centenary as the old leather bound minute records the first meeting of Babcary Parochial Church Council was held on 6th April 1920. PCCs were created by statute in 1921 to separate the church council's responsibilities from the civil parish council as the latter evolved into local government. The rector was joined by no less than 17 parishioners including Mr Creed & Mr Edwards the churchwardens, two Cannons and two Burtons, one of the latter being Levi Burton the sexton and clerk.

March 1921. Decided to install a 6th bell (the treble) in the tower. Funds to be raised

June 1921 The fete had raised £110.2s9d

Oct 1921 A bell chiming apparatus was to be purchased and installed by November

April 1923 Levi Burton was presented with 5 guineas on his retirement as clerk and sexton due to ill health. *He lived at The Shieling and his horse and cart was the village taxi service.*

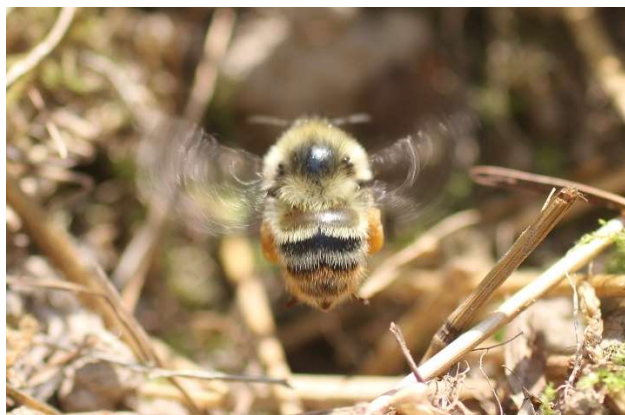


Photo credit: David Kleijn

Local bumblebee conservation research

The shrill carder bumblebee (*Bombus sylvarum*) is one of the rarest bumblebees in the UK. It was once found across much of England and Wales but has rapidly declined over the past 60 years, mainly driven by habitat loss. It is now only found in five locations in the UK, with Somerset being one of the last strongholds for the species. Researchers from the University of Cambridge, together with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, are researching how farmland supports the shrill carder bumblebee and other insect pollinators in Somerset.

We will be surveying the wild pollinators in the local area over the spring and summer as part of the *Restoring pollinator habitats across European agricultural landscapes* (RestPoll) project. RestPoll aims to identify the best practices for wild pollinator habitat restoration to reverse wild pollinator declines, aiming to benefit species such as the shrill carder bumblebee, as well as stabilise pollination services and their benefits to us all.

The work is led by Jacqui James, a postgraduate researcher from Cambridge's Department of Zoology. We are looking for field sites in the local area to survey three times per year in 2025 and 2026 and have contacted some local farms and landowners. If you are interested in the project or are keen to know how you can help, you can email Jacqui at jasj3@cam.ac.uk.

More information about the project can be found here: <https://restpoll.eu>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 10 th February	PC Meeting	8pm in the Hut
Saturday 22 nd February	Soup and Quiz Night	N Barrow village hall
Sunday 23 rd February	Road Race	Playing Field 11am
Thursday 27 th February	Mobile Library	Bus shelter 12.55 – 1.15pm
Every Tuesday	Bell Ringing	6pm in the church
Every Saturday	Community Shop	9.30 – 11am in the hut

