

BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

Many thanks to Gary and Sarah Tubridy and the Playing Field Committee for staging such a successful Road Race once again! Congratulations to all the village runners who did so well in adverse weather conditions. The hilly course and superb refreshments really put Babcary on the map!

Don't forget the litter pick on Saturday 15th March

Deadline for April edition: 24th March

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes

Babcary Parish Council

Monday 10th February 2025 8pm at The Hut

Present:

Mr Graham Hughes, Acting Chairman, Mr Damien Pick, Mr Steve Street, Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mrs Vee Vyner, Mr Kevin Messenger (County Councillor) & Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Mr Simon Hoar (SH), Mr Phil Sketchley (PS) & Mr Henry Hobhouse (County Councillor).

1) Matters Arising

- i) Pothole Reporting, (DP), since partial fixing some potholes now require refixing, they should be guaranteed a minimum 2 years. Works were agreed by Keirs who are now subcontracting, fears that subcontractors are shirking their duty to complete satisfactory work. Workers seen on site flouting health and safety rules by wearing crocs & unfit for attendance.
- ii) Flooding, Baker Street & Others roads throughout Babcary, Gary Tubridy measured all time high of 2ft depth on Dilkes Lane, raised concern that lanes will not cope!
To be revisited March.

- iii) Olive Farm repairs, Somerset Council contractor has indicated they will return the week of 17/02/2025 to carry out remedial works, revisit March.

2) Finance

- i. Capital Reserve Account stands at £13,653.57 Current Account balance £50.
- ii. £25 cheque raised in favour of Somerset Association of Local Councils.

3) Planning Consultation

- i. **Chapel Green.** Pre planning advice (not an actual planning application) has been sought for 9 dwellings for the two small fields between the Old Chapel and the Red Lion. The Jacksons, who are selling the site, kindly shared the response from Somerset Council and the planning officer's conclusion is quoted here verbatim.
- ii. "Ultimately, I would consider that the principle of residential development in what is a site within a sustainable location (as recognised under SS2 given the proximity to services) is considered acceptable. However, concerns regarding the provision of 9 dwellings as an attempt to avoid the requirement for affordable housing given the availability of land and proposed layout, including sizable, detached dwellings. Any future application should evidence why it would not be viable to provide 10+ dwellings, or how the provision of 9 dwellings meets local need. Similarly, any future application should be accompanied by a detailed Heritage Statement detailing the impact on the Grade 2 Listed Public House and a Transport Statement to show that there would not be an adverse highways impact associated with the development".
- iii. VV noted that the 20mph limit mentioned in the advice is inaccurate, the road is delimited.

4) Correspondence

- i) Local Plan, Mini Workshop, LCN Somerset Council,
- ii) SE Somerset LCN 2025 Priorities Survey
- iii) Community Health & Wellbeing Free Training online & drop-ins
- iv) Mr Fisher, Stoke St Mary Parish Council Chair. Raising issue of proposed 150 houses to be built in rural location whose current size is 200 houses! Asking for support requesting 10% maximum increases in rural areas, BPC confirmed they support this, Colin to keep BPC informed of any movement after next LCN Meeting (Local Community Network).

5) AOB

- i) The Parish Council thanked Hopkins for clearing the ditches further out down Steart Lane which has reduced the flooding along the road.

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

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

New priest for the Six Pilgrims

We've heard that Revd Pip Martin will be installed as the new priest of the Six Pilgrims by the Bishop of Bath & Wells, Rt Revd Michael Beasley, here at Babcary at 7pm on Monday 2nd June. It will be a big event - hold the date!

Services

Sunday	2 nd March	10.30	S.Barrow	Family service	with baptism
Wednesday	5 th March	10.30	Alford	Communion	said service
Sunday	9th March	10.30	Babcary	Communion	
Sunday	16 th March	10.30	Hornblotton	Matins	
Sunday	23 rd March	10.30	Alford	Communion	
Sunday	30th March	10.30	N.Barrow	Mothering Sunday	Presentation of posies

Church Rotas

	Cleaning	Flowers	Coffee	Sidesmen
2 nd March	Sarah and Sarah	Jo		
9 th March	Elisabeth & Mary	Lent - no flowers	Jen and Sally	Ed & Caroline
16 th March	Judy and Sally	Lent- no flowers		
23 rd March	Karen and Vee	Lent – no flowers		
30 th March	Tom and Bridget	Lent – no flowers		
6 th April	Nikki and Karen	Lent – no flowers		

PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Babcary Road Race Sunday 23rd Feb.

132 runners made it around the 7.5 mile course in blustery weather with only a short "swim" just past Wheatlawn Farm. Our thanks to Gary & Sarah Tubridy for organising and sponsoring the race for the umpteenth time and to Lucy and the refreshments team, the course marshals, the timers and the water station supremo.

We are delighted to say (and very relieved) that Damien Pick has volunteered to take over running the annual Road Race from Gary. Gary & Sarah have been running the race for over 20 years and Avalon Sciences Ltd have sponsored it every year. The only downside of this is that Gary himself is unable to compete - but from next year he will!

Results highlights:

The outright winner (not age graded) was Zak Hurrell in a time of 40.18 minutes.

Age graded	place	time	
Eleanor Wood	1 st	59.28	
Damien Pick	16 th	50.57	First local man
Lee McMeekin	32	51.38	
James Hoar	41	47.05	
Simon Hoar	53	62.15	
Karen Sparkes	99	74.49	First local lady
Richard Canterbury	101	63.10	
Lizzie Gilbert	107	65.37	
Martin Quartermain	118	75.22	

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Shop Rota

1 st March	Gilli and Shirley	5 th April	Rita and Carole
8 th March	Sally and Vee	12 th April	Judy and Lesley
15 th March	Jules and Caroline	19 th April	NO SHOP – EASTER
22 nd March	Helen and Teresa	26 th April	Jan and Karen
29 th March	Lucy and Jenny	3 rd May	Caroline and Tracyanne

Mobile Library

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

NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS



Huge congratulations to Rosie & Dave Paull who were married in Bath on Thursday 20th February.

The best things in life are worth waiting for.....



Welcome to Maureen Everard at No.1 Baker Street; kindly permitted to join the two cats already in residence!

We were saddened to hear that Arthur Llewellyn died on 17th February. He lived in Hill Farmhouse for almost 30 years and absolutely loved Babcary. He was very much part of the community and worked hard for the PCC. Many of you will remember his fantastic Wine Tasting Evenings in the Church which were always much enjoyed. We send our condolences to Nicky, Rosie and Ned. A Memorial Service will be held in Sherborne Abbey on Tuesday 18th March at 2.30pm.

From the archives

Apologies for the cut and paste shambles in last month's extract!

The proceedings of the PCC continued at a leisurely pace through the 1920s. In Sept 1924 it was proposed that a funeral bier be purchased for the parish and a summer fete would be held to raise funds. By April 1925 almost all the money needed had been raised and by Jan 1926 the new bier had been received and placed in an enlarged shed in the churchyard. This horse drawn bier is now on display in Castle Cary Museum. Far from being a lovely piece of traditional wooden craftsmanship it is ornate, black and chrome, rubber wheeled and, to be honest, hideous. Nevertheless by Dec 1927 thanks were given to Mr Savery for making a cover for it and it was noted that £1-13-6d had been raised by letting the bier out to neighbouring parishes.

In March 28 it was decided to hold a garden fete on 28th June and the bishop's wife had written to say that she would be pleased to open the fete. In May the minutes "expressed great regret that the bishop's wife was unable to open the fete on account of the bishop's holiday.

Earlier in the year the Rev Kimber of West Bradley had come over to give a talk on his work with Red Indians. The Rector had spoken of his regret that the bells were not being rung and said that he and the churchwardens would try to raise a team. Obviously this bore fruit as by Sept 1928 it was decided that the bell ringers should be recognised for their services and it was agreed that they should be given a supper on New Years Eve, cost to be covered out of church funds.



WEATHER REPORT

January was a return to wetter weather following the dry end to 2024 with Babcary receiving 148.4mm (5.84 inch) of rainfall. Rain largely fell over a few days at either end of the month. This was more than double our long-term average for the month. There was significant local flooding during the first week of January.

Steve Street



BABCARY & FODDINGTON LITTER PICK

SATURDAY 15TH MARCH 2025

MEETING @ 10AM @ THE HUT

The Babcary and Foddington Litter Pick will start with energising coffee for all at the Hut on Saturday 15th March.

Litter 'grab sticks' will be available as well as high vis' vests in various sizes. We would ask everyone to come with their own gloves and any tough old bin/compost bags to avoid using too many new plastic bags for gathering old rubbish (they are also more robust!)

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

Will Blossom Hill bottles, cans of Thatchers or Stella Artois, vape wrappers, car parts or McDonalds coffee cups win the day?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday 9 th March	Communion service	Babcary church 10.30am
Monday 10 th March	PC Meeting	Hut 8pm
Saturday 15 th March	Babcary Foddington Litter Pick	Start at the Hut at 10am.
Thursday 27 th March	Mobile Library	Bus shelter 12.55 – 1.15pm
Every Tuesday	Bell Ringing	Church 6pm
Every Saturday	Community Shop	Hut 9.30 – 11am