

BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

STARTING TUESDAY 13TH MAY

10.30AM IN THE HUT

We have a new event starting this month! Come along to the Hut for fresh coffee and a chat. If you have just moved to Babcary, or have only been here for a few years, this would be a great opportunity to get to know your fellow villagers!

SAVE THE DATE: *SATURDAY 21ST JUNE – BABCARY SUMMER FETE*

Deadline for June edition; 26th May.

Email: carolehartnell@gmail.com

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes

Babcary Parish Council

Monday 14th April 2025 8pm at The Hut

Present: Present: Mr Simon Hoar (SH), Mr Philip Sketchley (PS), Mr Graham Hughes (GH), Mr Steve Street (SS), Mrs Glynis Kingston (GK), Mrs Vee Vyner (VV), Mr Damien Pick, Mr Kevin Messenger (KM) County Councillor & Mrs Jasmine Tucker (JT).

Apologies: Mr Henry Hobhouse, County Councillor.

1) Matters Arising

- i) Pothole Repairs updates, some but not all have been fixed, SS will be continuing to report back to South Somerset County Council re dangerous potholes on behalf of Babcary parishoners.
- ii) Flooding issues, no updates.
- iii) Olive Farm entrance repairs, Babcary Parish Councillors are happy to report the concrete hardcore has finally been completed.
- iv) The Hut's revamp, Mrs Glynis Kingston is currently awaiting the "get-go" from Babcary Playing Field Committee to complete the curtains.
- v) Graham Hughes completed his last day as a parish councillor. The Parish Council thanked him for his calm, considered advice & legal expertise along with his unstinting support for the village over two long terms as a parish councillor stretching right back to the chairmanship of Cmdr Scadding.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 87 of the Local Government Act 1972 that a vacancy has occurred on Babcary Parish Council.

Unless a request for an election to be held is submitted in writing to the Chief Executive of Somerset Council at Electoral Services, The Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 2HT by 8th May 2025 by ten electors for the Parish of Babcary, the Parish Council will proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Jasmine Tucker, Parish Clerk.

2) Finance

- i. Capital Reserve Account stands at £13,601.76 Current Account balance £50.
- ii. SALC Invoice 1758 £129.59
- iii. SO0012 Babcary Parish Council – 2024/25 AGAR external auditor instructions received.

3) Planning Consultation

- i. Hill Farm House 25/00531/HOU
Foddington Road Babcary, Somerton Somerset TA11 7EB
Extension and alterations to house, conversion of barn into an annexe and erection of a 3 bay carport with home office above
Parish Council have no objections
- ii. Mr & Mrs Garrard informally submitted a sketch plan for a single house in the car park of the Red Lion following a meeting with SH and SS on 1st April. We understand that a pre planning enquiry will be submitted to Somerset Council and it was considered that there was insufficient detail to comment until a detailed plan had been submitted. Mr Garrard had confirmed that the bar from the pub imposed on all the original members of the parish council in 2021 remained in force.

4) Correspondence

- i) Plan showing the closure of a section of bridleway L 2/9 in Babcary due to an unsafe bridge received, Macmillan Way & Hook Lane track. Note that this is an initial 21-day closure and is likely to be extended Martin Harris, Rights of Way, Bridge Warden Somerset Council. Full details published on Babcary Whatsapp & forwarded to Parish Councillors.
- ii) Somerset Sight is your local charity based in Taunton, which supports blind and partially sighted people throughout Somerset. At our offices in Northfield House, 51 Staplegrove Road, Taunton TA1 1DG, throughout February we have been holding Warm Space Mondays. This is FREE soup and cake in a lovely warm space, from 12.30pm to 2pm. Currently SS are looking for volunteers across Somerset, offering full training & support, all reasonable out of pocket expenses paid, incl mileage.
- iii) Eileen Ford, Planning, I can advise you that, following the approval of the Head of Planning, the Validation List became active from 1st April 2025. Our validation teams will be utilising the new Validation List with immediate effect.
- iv) Somerset Day 10th & 11th of May, The Big Somerset Picnic, just type in The Big Somerset Picnic 2025 in your search engine. A limited number of FREE flags, bunting and car bumper stickers are available here <https://www.somersetday.com/merchandise>
- v) GALLAGHER (Insurance) 01/04/25
Welcome to the latest issue of our Community Matters newsletter, featuring topical articles for the community sector & regulatory changes impacting fire extinguishers and firefighting foams, we break down what these mean for your organisation. Plus, we share practical tips to help communities adapt to changing weather conditions to protect shared green spaces for the future.
- i) AOB
- i) GK, silage transporting throughout the village roads imminently through to end of May, GK asked could villagers & workers in the village be mindful of this, try to leave roads clear for large tractors.
- ii) SH asked if anyone missed the noticeboard on North Street, damaged beyond repair in last storm. It was agreed that the noticeboard will not be replaced.
- iii) The church mower needs replacing and SH explained that the other parish churches each receive an annual grant of £500 towards maintenance of the burial ground (as this is ultimately a civil parish responsibility). It was agreed to make a one off grant of £500 for the mower and an ongoing grant annual of £200 to the PCC. SH declared an interest.

vi) Date and Time of Next Meeting: 8pm Monday 12th of May 2025
Annual Parish Meeting in the Hut. Everyone welcome

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

*You are warmly invited
to a service to welcome Rev Pip Martin
As Priest in Charge of the Six Pilgrims
At 7pm on Monday 2nd June
In Babcary Church*

On Monday 2nd June at 7pm in Babcary Church we will have a big service to welcome Rev Pip Martin as our new Priest in Charge. The Rt Rev Michael Beasley, the Bishop of Bath & Wells, will officiate and everyone is invited to join in this happy occasion and to meet both Pip and the Bishop over light refreshments afterwards (hopefully outside in the evening sun).

Fr Pip (and his cat) will be gradually moving into the house for duty over at South Barrow over the next few weeks before he formally starts work with us on 2nd June - so you might encounter him on his bike. As well as cycling he was a keen footballer until injuries took their toll, can keep wicket if required, knows a thing or two about home brewing and, with a degree in theology from Cambridge, knows a bit about religion too.



Easter Sunday

The Easter Sunday service was packed – apologies for the shortage of hymn books – and all the eggs in the churchyard were found by the plague of “young locusts” who scoured every inch and left no chocolate for the mowers to find later! The Easter flowers were nothing short of magnificent.

Thank you also to the army of people who transformed the churchyard on 12th April – and still managed to preserve the carpet of primroses.

Services

Sunday	4 th May	10.30	Alford	Family service	
Sunday	11 th May	10.30	N.Barrow	Communion	
Sunday	18 th May	10.30	Lovington	Matins	
Sunday	25 th May	10.30	S.Barrow	Communion	
Sunday	1st June	10.30	Babcary	Family service	
Monday	2nd June	19.30	Babcary	Licencing of Revd Pip Martin	Bishop of Bath & Wells

Church Rotas

	Cleaning	Flowers	Coffee	Sidesmen
4 th May	Sarah and Sarah	Elisabeth		
11 th May	Elisabeth & Mary	Lucy		
18 th May	Judy and Sally	Su		
25 th May	Karen and Vee	Karen		
1 st June	Tom and Bridget	Rita	Shirley&Michele	Michele & Simon

PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Playing Field AGM

Paul Cuff was re elected Chairman, Lucy McD Secretary and Tris Tucker agreed to take over from Jim Ellis after his 18 year marathon stint as treasurer.

Redecoration of the Hut interior was agreed and in the children's playground Alice Gillespie and James Pout agreed to canvas opinion from young families about new playground equipment.... an arch, a whirly thing, a grassy knoll, a "spring" chicken - all ideas welcome

Tennis subs – it was agreed to put annual tennis subs up to £75 for families, £40 for adults and £20 for children – but this is the first increase in 36 years. Subs are due by 1st June. Please BACS payment to:

Acc name. Babcary Playing Field, sort code 09 01 55, Acc No. 7452 5181 and use your surname and "tennis" as the reference.

100 Club – It was agreed that we restart the 100 Club this year. This is a prime means of funding the playing field and the Hut. For an annual sub of £20 per person we hold 4 draws per year (starting at the fete) and 50% of the proceeds are given back in prizes. Members of the playing field will be in touch nearer the time but the BACS details are the same as above and please use your surname and "100" as the reference.

It is hoped that rounders for the children may restart over the summer

Diary Dates:

Sports Day – Saturday 5th July

Bonfire Night – Saturday 1st November

Road Race – Sunday 22nd Feb 26

Cricket fixtures:

Fri 30th May against Ditchheat at Ditchheat

Weds 5th June against the Newt – at Castle Cary

Fri 20th June against Ditchheat at Babcary

Sun 17th Aug against the Dorset Wanderers

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Shop Rota

3 rd May	Caroline and Tracyanne	7 th June	Lucy and Jenny
10 th May	Gilli and Shirley	14 th June	Rita and Carole
17 th May	Sally and Vee	21 st June	NO SHOP – FETE
24 th May	Jules and Caroline	28 th June	Judy and Lesley
31 st May	Helen and Teresa	5 th July	Jan and Karen

Mobile Library

Calls at the bus shelter from 12.55 – 1.15pm on the 22nd May.

Exhibition

Post Exhibition Sale of Textile Art and Mixed Media at Babcary Hut on Sunday 1 June 2025 between 10.30 and 3.30 - cards and haberdashery sales also - card payment facilities available

NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS

A warm welcome to the new family at Broadclose House: Victoria and Johnnie de la Moriniere their small daughter Poppy and dog Gussie.

We hope that they will be very happy in Babcary.

Congratulations to Robin and Jenny Brown who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the Scillies in April.

Sad to note the sudden death of Nolan Dalby at the age of 51; a much loved former manager of the pub.

The Red Lion corner

Dear Villagers of Babcary,

We are writing to you as friends, neighbours, and proud custodians of **The Red Lion Inn**—our beautiful village pub.

It has been a privilege to welcome you through our doors now for the past 22 years, and we truly believe that **a great pub should sit and be part of this thriving community**. However, like many in the hospitality trade, we are facing incredibly tough trading conditions, and we need your support to keep this special place alive.

We want **The Red Lion** to be a place where everyone feels welcome—a space for laughter, conversation, and shared memories. But to make that happen, we need to hear from you! **What would entice you in?** Would you enjoy **quiz nights, themed food evenings, or community events?** Perhaps a book club, coffee mornings, or a space for local groups to meet? **Your ideas matter, and we are listening.**

Rather than dwelling on the challenges, we are focusing on solutions—**ways to bring people together and ensure The Red Lion remains at the heart of Babcary**. With your support, we can keep it going strong for many years to come.

We are kicking off with live Acoustic sets every last Friday of the month and 2 larger Music Events on the 24th May and 30th August

So, please pop in for a chat, drop us a note, or email us with your thoughts. We'd love to hear from you.

With warmest wishes,
Clare & Charlie

The Red Lion, Babcary

Pizzas are Back !

Friday 4th April from 5.30pm - Saturday 12pm till 9pm

Going forward serving Pizzas:

Thursday nights from 6.00pm, Friday 5.30pm, and Saturday 12pm till 9.00pm

******* Live Music - Last Friday of each month *******

Wednesday Nights from 9th April 2 Steaks and a Bottle of Wine £60.00

The pub will be open from 5pm on Fridays and all day Saturday from 12.00pm

***SAVE THE DATE* May 24th Real Ales, Cider, BBQ & Pizza, Dancing and Live Music**

Keep up to date with what's going on at The Red Lion and give us a follow at

<https://www.instagram.com/redlionbabcary/> <https://www.facebook.com/redlionbabcary>
www.redlionbabcary.co.uk

80th Anniversary of V E Day

Lest we forget

As we join in the celebrations on this Anniversary in May,
let us remember the price that was paid for our freedom
that we might have this day.

For those of us who still remember, the past 80 years have just rolled by and who can wonder when
a memory is recalled that a tear comes to the eye.

We think of those who gave their lives, our country to defend, they fought the fight for our freedom
right to the bitter end.

Let us remember them with pride for they gave all they had to give so that you and I and future
generations would have the right to live.

We think of those who are left with broken minds and bodies, now in their Autumn years, we think
of the widows, sons, and daughters, who today still weep and shed their tears.

So today whilst we are celebrating let us remember them with pride, for it was for our freedom here
today

that they fought and died.

Let all the beacons glow across the land,
let all the church bells ring and let us with all our hearts and voices our National Anthem sing.

Betty Whitcher

From the archives



From the minute book of the Parochial Church Council:

March 1938 – it was noted that in country parishes the wireless and the motor car had much to do with the fall in congregations but the Sunday School was flourishing. In considering the impending vacancy the PCC strongly recommended that the new rector should be a married man, of middle age (probably with children) *and with a substantial private income.*

June 1938 – spring cleaning of the church was overdue and the Rector noted that many churches were installing electric lights so he would try to procure some old oil lamps being discarded in the process. The fund for a new churchyard had reached £53 and the ground had been partly cleared by volunteers. *This is the plot to the right of the main churchyard - there were two derelict cottages on the site beforehand.*

April 1939 - Church thoroughly cleaned, a new harmonium presented to the church by Miss Atkins and a set of oil lamps from Ditchat churchwardens. Church funds stood at 5 1/2d.

SH & JH

WEATHER REPORT

In March there was very little rainfall with Babcary receiving just 5.7mm most of which fell on the 21st of the month. This was the driest March on our records. Overall, this has regionally been the fourth driest March since records began in 1871 and the driest March since 1961. It has also been the driest month since May 2020.

Steve Street

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 12 th May	PC Meeting	Hut 8pm
Tuesday 13 th May	Coffee Morning	Hut 10.30am
Thursday 22 nd May	Mobile Library	Bus shelter 12.55 – 1.15pm
Every Tuesday	Bell Ringing	Church 6pm
Every Saturday	Community Shop	Hut 9.30 – 11am
Sunday 1 st June	Textile Exhibition	Hut 10.30 – 3.30pm
Sunday 1 st June	Family Service	Babcary church 10.30am
Monday 2 nd June	Welcoming of Revd Pip Martin	7pm in the church