

BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

BABCARY SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 21ST JUNE

**3PM ON THE
PLAYING FIELD**

**BOUNCY CASTLE CAKES RAFFLE PLANTS
CHILDREN'S TOMBOLA TEAS ICE CREAMS SKITTLES
ROBBO'S BAR WHITE ELEPHANT SIDESHOW**

We hope that the sun will shine and that you will all be able to come to the Fete! If you can bake a cake or donate a raffle prize that would be even better. Any donations can be brought to the Playing Field from 9.30am onwards.

Deadline for July/August edition; 23rd June

Email: carolehartnell@googlemail.com.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes

Monday 12th May 2025 8pm at The Hut

Present: Present: Simon Hoar (SH), Phil Sketchley (PS), Glynis Kingston (GK), Damien Pick (DP), Vee Vyner (VV), Steve Street (SS) Jasmine Tucker Parish Clerk (JT). & PFC Chair Paul Cuff (PC)

Apologies: Kevin Messenger, County Councillor.

1) Matters Arising

- i) Pothole Repairs updates, road outside Malcolm Beaton's property, reported by SH now earmarked by painted outline for council repair.
- ii) Flooding issues, updates, currently none.
- iii) The Hut's revamp, BPFC have taken up the challenge, Mark Hewson has been recruited to paint the internal walls, repair external boarding & add to loft insulation, further renovations pending.
- iv) Parish Council vacancy; no request for a by election has been received so the PC will co-opt a new councillor at the next meeting.
- v) Repair of footpath alongside Old School on Church Street, PS.
Since trimming back overcrowding foliage the footpath running from the old school has proved to be hazardous. The flagstones are slippery especially during off seasons, PS suggested securing railway sleepers along the pathway & filling with gravel.
Cost of rectifying, SH to approach Mendip Ramblers & County Council for clarification.

2) Finance

- i. Capital Reserve Account stands at £13,601.76 Current Account balance £50.
- ii. Cheque for £129.46 signed for 123 REG for Bab Cary Website (PS)
- iii. SO0012 Bab Cary Parish Council – 2024/25 AGAR external auditor instructions received, Mr Brian Crowley has kindly agreed to sign as external auditor.
- iv. Annual Accounts reviewed & approved.

v. AGM HELD

Open Floor opportunity for members of the community to raise any issues or concerns – none.

- Vi Election of chairman and vice chairman. Simon Hoar re-elected as Chairman, proposed by Damien Pick & seconded by Phil Sketchley.
Phil Sketchley was re-elected as Vice Chairman, proposed by Simon Hoar & seconded by Glynis Kingston.
- vi. Bab Cary Playing Field Committee Annual report from Paul Cuff (PFC Chairman) was received with thanks – see report below

3) Planning Consultation

- i. 25/00858/FUL Mr Stacey Beaton
Spring Gardens Fosse Way West Lydford Somerton Somerset TA11 7DS

Erection of a steel framed building for the storage of hay, straw, haylage, shavings and the security of Equestrian vehicles such as horse boxes, horse lorries and machinery equipment.

No Objections.

4) Correspondence

- i) SALC Training events, PS interested in 4th of June
- ii) Health & Wellbeing rural & coastal health, free training, Saturday 17th May 2025 The Shambles Castle Cary 10-16.00. Lilly Keeley Watts.
- iii) Somerset Councils Clerk Meeting.

5) AOB

- i) The publication of Draft Minutes in Babcary newsletter was queried. Should they be withheld until after sign off at the following meeting although this would delay publication by a month? It was agreed to issue a draft by email to all PCs for comments back to Clerk before issuing as draft in Village News. The final formal approval at next full meeting. Clerk to ask other local Parish Council clerks on how they handle such matters.
- ii) The Dog Poop Box outside the Hut stocked with green Dog Poop bags has been abused again by someone removing the whole roll of bags! Padlock and camera to be investigated.
Concern also over someone filling disabled toilets with grass and covering the bowl with mud (presumed to be mud!). Concerns were also raised by MP re youths accessing the locked storage hut at the rear of the playing field, the storage hut contains tools and equipment belonging to PFC.

iv) Date and Time of Next Meeting: 8pm Monday 9th of June 2025 in the Hut.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

*You are warmly invited
to a service to welcome Fr Pip Martin
As Priest in Charge of the Six Pilgrims
At 7pm on Monday 2nd June
in Babcary Church
Lead by the Bishop of Bath & Wells
And for drinks afterwards*

Services

Sunday	1st June	10.30	Babcary	Family service	
Monday	2nd June	19.30	Babcary	Licencing of Revd Pip Martin	Bishop of Bath & Wells
Sunday	8 th June	10.30	Hornblotton	Communion	
Sunday	15 th June	10.30	Alford	Matins	
Sunday	22 nd June	10.30	N.Barrow	Communion	
Sunday	29 th June	10.30	Hornblotton	Communion	Patronal

Church Rotas

	Cleaning	Flowers	Coffee	Sidesmen
1st June	Tom and Bridget	Rita	Shirley & Michele	Michele & Simon
8 th June	Nikki and Karen	Jo		
15 th June	Rita and Jenny	Teresa		
22 nd June	Simon & Shirley	Elisabeth		
29 th June	Jan and Lucy	Lucy		
6 th July	Sarah and Sarah	Su		

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

At our AGM on 25th April, the Committee members agreed to stay on as before; Robin and Jenny, Teresa, Gilli, Helen (Treasurer), Caroline (Secretary) and Shirley (Chairman). The Treasurer reported a healthy bank balance thanks to successful events and despite giving a donation towards the Church roof. Many thanks are due to everyone who supports the Fete, the Bazaar and the Shop as these are our major fundraisers.

Dates for your diary:

Harvest Supper – Saturday 13th September

Christmas Bazaar – Saturday 29th November

First on the agenda is the Fete on the 21st of this month where we hope to see as many of you as possible!

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE AGM 25TH APRIL 2025

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

When walking the Coast Path you pass through many villages and it's a joy to see that some of them still have posters advertising events. It makes a village seem alive. Thanks to all of you, our village is one of the lucky ones that is also very much alive. A village without the annual events which give us all a sense of community just wouldn't be the same.

We started the year with the Summer Fete, which was very successful with sunny weather and lots of people. Thanks to Alice Gillespie, we had a Bouncy Castle for the first time in years and this drew in many of our new families. We made £738 which was a healthy profit and I hope we can repeat the same this year.

The Harvest Supper also went well, but only just! On the day before we had only sold 60 tickets, which is a record low. Fortunately 12 more people came forward on the day, but we had already decided the marquee wasn't needed so it was a bit of a squeeze! We all ended up running around like headless chickens in a very confined space, but that's the nature of the beast. We always get by on a wing and a prayer!

Happily, the Christmas Bazaar was our most successful in 3 years. We had almost considered abandoning it at one point, but what would a village Christmas be without the Bazaar! Lucy and her team produced a marvellous Wreath and Decoration stall, which helped considerably towards our profit and I hope they can be persuaded to do something similar on a smaller scale this year.

The Newsletter, now 43 years old, continues to be well received as far as we can tell. The Shop, now 44, is a great way of keeping the community together on a weekly basis. The Christmas Shop was not worth doing as only the faithful few came. Christmas biscuits were delivered to all our Senior Citizens and the children were given free tickets to the Yeovil pantomime. What's not to love about living in Babcary! Here's to another year of great events and thank you all for staying on board!

PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

This year has been one of continued positive development within the playing field. We welcomed back an active Cricket team to the village with their first round of friendly matches. The annual Bonfire display hit more records and continues to be a signature event for the village. Our other events, the Road Race and Sports Day have also been successful and contributed to fund raising.

We have had some changes in personnel within the committee and I wish to personally thank Jim Ellis for his outstanding 18-year tenure as Treasurer.

James Pout, Alice Gillespie and Lee McMeekin have joined our ranks, and we welcome any new volunteers who wish to support the playing field any form.

I would also like to extend my gratitude firstly to Gary Tubridy for his long service organising the Road Race event and secondly to Damien Pick for taking the baton and agreeing to continue his excellent work for the future.

We have agreed for the first time in 30+ years to raise the tennis subscriptions this rise we hope will help keep funds stable and ensure we can maintain the surface for the years to come.

The 100 club has also restarted, this was always a popular part of so many village events and was a reliable revenue generator for the playing field.

For the year to come we have plans to re invigorate the play equipment as some parts are reaching the end of their serviceable life. We will investigate funding to help.

The Cricket club has already secured many more fixtures for this year which bodes well for the future of the sport in the village.

The hut will receive much needed updating as well and we are investigating more energy efficient solutions for heating.

There are hopes for rounders to be re started as well.

I would like to finish by extending my thanks to all who have and continue to volunteer their time to keep the playing field and all its events running smoothly. PC

Tennis subs are due by 1st June please – £75 for families, £40 for adults and £20 for children 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 Relunched

This is one of the prime means of funding the Playing Field and the Hut – hut refurbishment, new playground equipment etc. For an annual sub of £20 per person we hold 4 draws per year (first draw at the Fete) and 50% of the proceeds are given back in cash prizes. To enter please send a BACS payment of £20 per person to the details above and please use your surname and “100” as the reference. For couples just make the BACS payment £40 and we will enter you both. Your subs need to be in by 19th June to be in the first draw.

Babcary Sports Day – Saturday 5th July at 2.45 pm on the playing field.

All the traditional races; sprints, throwing the cricket ball, three legged, egg & spoon, sack race, cross country, bean bag, obstacle race etc - all age graded. Bring your friends. All children aged 5-15 inclusive compete for cash prizes and the Babcary children also score points towards the silver champion’s cups. Plus races for the under fives *and* the over fifteens. Would Sacha, Ali and Holly please return their cups on Sports Day.

Refreshments: teas, cakes & ice creams

Cricket fixtures:

Fri 30th May against Ditchat at Ditchat 6pm start – supporters are very welcome – please come along.

Weds 5th June against the Newt 6pm – at Castle Cary

Fri 20th June against Ditchat at Babcary 6pm – we’re hoping for a good home crowd – drinks on the verandah

Sun 17th Aug against the Dorset Wanderers

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Shop Rota

7 th June	Lucy and Jenny	5 th July	NO SHOP – Sports Day
14 th June	Rita and Carole	12 th July	Jan and Karen
21 st June	NO SHOP – FETE	19 th July	Caroline and Tracyanne
28 th June	Judy and Lesley	26 th July	Gilli and Shirley
		2 nd August	Vee and Sally

Mobile Library

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

Exhibition

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

NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Visiting Babcary Meadows Nature Reserve

Somerset Wildlife Trust urge visitors to Babcary Meadows nature reserve to follow the countryside code and keep both themselves and their dogs to the public footpaths, particularly during the summer months. We have noticed a significant increase in dog walking in the meadows over recent years. Many dog owners are passionate about nature and want to avoid harming it. However, even the most well-behaved dogs can unintentionally cause distress or damage wildlife, simply by following their natural curiosity. Birds perceive dogs as predators; when dogs roam freely, birds may abandon their nests, leaving eggs and chicks cold and unprotected. For example, Skylarks used to breed in the meadows, but haven't done so for years, possibly as a result of disturbance from the increasing number of dogs running around off the lead.

Responsible visitors can help wildlife if they:

- Keep to the footpaths to avoid disturbing wildlife and trampling plants.
- Keep dogs on short leads on nature reserves and in the wider countryside

- Clean up and dispose of dog waste in bins or at home. Dog waste is dangerous for wildlife and farm animals as it can carry diseases, scare away animals and increases nutrients in soils above healthy levels, affecting the natural balance of fragile habitats.

Nature reserves are rare places that provide a refuge for wildlife in an otherwise hostile landscape. They should be places we keep disturbance and other threats to a minimum so that we can all enjoy the wonderful sights and sounds of nature, now and in the future.

Somerset Wildlife Trust

From the archives



From the minute book of the Parochial Church Council:

Sept 1940 – meeting held to discuss blacking out the church for the winter but it was decided that it would be prohibitively expensive and it was also undesirable to encourage people to be out late.

George Pickford's offer to repair the churchyard wall for £3 accepted.

Nov 1940 – The Rector reported the death of Mr Pickford and a minute's silence was held for all that he had done.

April 1941 – good attendance at the National Days of Prayer (War). Churchyard wall much better thanks to late Mr Pickford and Mr Ridewood.

May 1941 - £4.12s.1d still outstanding of churchyard wall repairs. Evening of games will be held on the Rectory Lawn to raise money.

Jan 1942 – a commission was visiting all the benefices within the Deanery to enquire into grouping parishes around a central church and disposing of over large rectories and glebe lands. Very strong opposition was expressed. The rector agreed that the rectory was somewhat large for his personal requirements but not for a successor with a large family. *This was the Old Rectory in Babcary Lane - one of the largest houses in the village.* The timing of the commission's visit was difficult due to the need to get farm duties done before the blackout.

SH&JH

And appropriate to this period in our village history and all the VE Day celebrations here is a photo of the Babcary Home Guard Platoon taken at Keinton Mandeville.

The Germans never stood a chance did they?!

WEATHER REPORT

Babcary received 13.6mm of rainfall during April this being about 30% of our long term average for the month. Reservoir levels were at 90% capacity for both Bristol and Wessex regions.

Steve Street

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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	Babcary church 7pm
Wednesday 5 th June	Cricket match v The Newt	Castle Cary 6pm
Monday 9 th June	PC Meeting	Hut 8pm
Thursday 19 th June	Mobile Library	Bus shelter 12.55 – 1.15pm
Friday 20 th June	Cricket Match v Ditchheat	Playing Field 6pm
Saturday 21 st June	Summer Fete	Playing Field 3pm
Every Tuesday	Bell Ringing	Church 6pm
Every Saturday	Community Shop	Hut 9.30 – 11am