

BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

A chance remark at this year's Harvest Supper led me to reflect on the first Harvest Supper I attended. For a start there was no bar! Everyone had a glass of sherry on arrival, then one glass of wine with the meal. If you were lucky, you might get a second glass. We catered for 150 people in the old barn at Olive Farm. This meant there was an awful lot of washing up and nobody had a dishwasher. We had an old pram to transport all the plates and glasses across the yard to the farmhouse and spent hours washing and drying them all. As for the toilet, it was a tiny hut with a bucket, which provided endless fascination to all the children in attendance. How times have changed!

Deadline for the November edition; 27th October.

Email: carolehartnell@googlemail.com

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes from Monday 15th September 2025 8pm at The Hut

Present: Mr Simon Hoar, Mr Philip Sketchley, Mr Steve Street, Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mrs Jane Diamond, Mr Kevin Messenger (County Councillor) & Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Mrs Vee Vyner, Mr Damian Pick & Mr Henry Hobhouse (County Councillor)

1) Matters Arising

- i) Pothole Repairs updates, none.
- ii) The Hut's revamp, hut now repainted, awaiting completion of curtains and playground equipment renovation.
- iii) The Parish Council confirmed renewal of Asset of Community Value (ACV) registration on The Red Lion, 5 year registration till June 2030.
- iv) The Local Government Boundary Commission, has recommended that Babcary moves to Ilchester ward instead of the current Castle Cary ward. The parish council agreed to object to this at last meeting (minuted July 2025) SH has voiced the appeal but as yet no reply from The Local Commission, KM to ask HH to further the BPC request.

- v) General village maintenance, Stones on verges causing damage to vehicles, legality disputed, Babcary sign at entrance to village requires repair, Horse signs requested & promised by county highways but they have not appeared yet, agreed over a year ago, PS.
Tracey Harris, replacement for John Nicholson has yet to respond SH to chase, KM suggested contacting John Nicholson.
- vi) GK, letter re Environment Agency notice of intention to stop maintenance of The River Cary on privately owned strip, Environment Agency Watercourse maintenance update.
KM raised concerns that previous stopping of river maintenance had resulted in flooding. Parrett Drainage Board unhappy with the withdrawal of Env Agency service.
Controversy re round-up spray being used on Somerset watercourses, PS to look into.

2) Finance

- i. Capital Reserve Account stands at £17,473.89 Current Account balance £50.

3) Planning Consultation

- i. Ref: 25/01654/S73A
Address: Headland Cottage, Foddington Road, Babcary, TA11 7EQ
Applicant: Miss Violet Vyner
Approved

4) Correspondence

- i) Babcary PC Website - quote for possible new domain, PS has been weighing up pros and cons for changing current supplier. Alternative supplier would be cheaper long term but substantial conversion costs. Alternative system much more user friendly and it would facilitate use by other parts of the Babcary community, eg. Cricket Club, Playing Field Committee, PCC and Comm Comm being able to have and update their own page. Agreed that this looked like the best long term option.
PS to delve further into.
JT to forward any other interested companies to PS for cost comparison.
- ii) Annual grit report, current stock deemed adequate.
- iii) Speeding issues raised re Perry Hill road to Foddington. Previous concerns re high speeds throughout the village but doubt as to whether yet more signs or limits would impact on a minority who drive at excessive speeds. Speed tests in 2023 demonstrated very little speeding in the village and BPC funded 20's plenty signs. PS to ask other councils how they have got 30mph signs and do not have mandatory lights in order to qualify.
- iv) SALC Somerset Parishes 2025 AGM Conference, near Bridgewater Friday 3rd of October, book places now.

5) AOB

- i) GK brought up recurrence of off roaders in Babcary seen recently in North St.
- ii) KM queried if we can clear village drains, can this be done without moving drain lids, millions of £ needs to be saved on drainage debacle.
- iii) Suggestion of using what 3 words to note drain locations, people taking responsibility for drains next to their property and clearing (if superficial) or reporting if blocked.

Next meeting: Monday 13th October, 8pm in the hut

Once approved at the subsequent months meeting minutes will be posted, with any updates/amendments and DISPLAYED ON the BABCARY WEBSITE under 'Parish Council Minutes' section. www.babcaryparishcouncil.org.uk

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Services

Sunday	5th Oct	10.30	Babcary	Communion &	Christening of Woodson Pout
Sunday	12 th Oct	10.30	S.Barrow	communion	Harvest Festival
Sunday	19 th Oct	10.30	Hornblotton	matins	
Sunday	26 th Oct	10.30	N.Barrow	communion	
Sunday	2 nd Nov	10.30	Alford	Communion	

Church Rotas

	Cleaning	Flowers	Coffee	Sidesmen
5 th October	Rita and Jenny	Elisabeth	TBA	TBA
12 th October	Simon & Shirley	Lucy		
19 th October	Jan and Lucy	Maureen		
26 th October	Sarah and Sarah	Karen		
2 nd November	Elisabeth & Mary	Rita		

Midweek Pilgrims Prayers

Fr Pip will be holding short midweek prayers in each of the churches. A 20 minute or so service with time to reflect, pray for others and ourselves. Please feel free to join in at:

Babcary - Sat 4th Oct at 9am, Tues 14th at 5.15pm and Sat 1st Nov at 9am.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

This year's Harvest Supper was small but perfectly formed! 60 people were comfortably seated on the verandah and enjoyed our traditional Harvest fare along with copious quantities of wine, ale and cider. The tables, as always, looked a picture with Helen's flower arrangements and Judy's home-grown grapes. Nikki had again organised a great line-up of musical entertainment with some beautiful singing from Jenny and Paul followed by the Pop-up choir. The audience heartily joined in with the sea shanties, which were interspersed with some hilarious sketches from Dave and Rosie. Doubtless you all understood the significance of Ty's photo and Simon holding a lettuce!

Many thanks to all our apple pie makers who provided sufficient desserts and some to auction as well. The auction went with a swing and special mention must be made of the fabulous boxes of home-grown vegetables put together by Rita and Lucy.

Thank you also to those who donated raffle prizes. The winners were Vee Vyner, Rory McDiarmid, Mrs Hodges, Maureen Everard, Mehmet Aric, Glynis Kingston, Lizzie Gilbert, Hugh Herten, Tristan's Mum, Caroline Squires and Hermione Tucker.

PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE



BABCARY BONFIRE NIGHT



Saturday 1st November. Gates open and bonfire lighting at 6pm, firework display from 7pm. Hog roast with all the trimmings and the new "Rattlebucket" Bar with real ale, local cider and the finest wines. Tickets £4 for adults and children £1.

Parking on the playing field - but please leave your cars at home if within reasonable walking distance as parking will be absolutely at a premium.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mobile Library

Calls at the bus shelter from 12.55 – 1.15pm on the 9th October

Shop Rota

4 th October	Gilli and Shirley	1 st November	NO SHOP – Bonfire Night
11 th October	Sally and Vee	8 th November	Lucy and Jenny
18 th October	Jules and Caroline	15 th November	Rita and Carole
25 th October	Helen and Teresa	22 nd November	Judy and Lesley
		29 th November	NO SHOP – Christmas Bazaar

There are some good books in the Shop “Library” at the moment, but it is getting over-full, and I need to re-home some of them. If you know of some that have been there for a long time, please could you put them on the work top. Many thanks

Pop-Up Projects in Babcary... and beyond!

I’m keen to develop a series of **creative** Pop-Up Projects in Babcary and the surrounding area — starting with a **Singing Workshop** on **Monday, October 13th, 6.30–7.45 pm** at **Babcary Hut**.



In the same week as **World Singing Day**, this relaxed, one-off taster session is open to *anyone* who enjoys singing with others. We’ll explore a variety of songs and styles, and celebrate the joy of making music together — no experience needed!

Everyone from across the **Six Pilgrims** (and beyond) is very welcome.

If there’s enough interest, I’d love to develop this into a regular monthly opportunity.

To help with planning, please drop me a message if you’d like to come along.

Nikki Hewson

07812441143

tuneplayer@hotmail.co.uk

PS. Our Babcary Pop Up Choir will continue to do its fabulous ‘thing’ this is just something a bit different!

Poppy Appeal

There will be another Poppy Appeal quiz on Saturday 8th November starting at 7 p m at the Hut. Bring a team. There will be soup and a Tombola. More details next month.

NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Congratulations to Rob Harrison and Emma at Wheatlawn Farm on the birth of Lily! A third grandchild for Chris and Jane.

Congratulations to Tina Hutchins and Graham Hughes who have both (quite independently) just completed the South West Coast Path. Jane and Gerald Brock completed it a while ago and others are well on their way. Indeed it is said that on any given day there are on average 0.75 Babcary residents somewhere on the coast path (AI generated statistic).

Somerset Council doesn't get much praise these days but we can report that they have thoroughly restored the Hunt Bridge on the round walk beyond the wildflower meadows and, unbidden, they also did some much needed maintenance work on the bridge next to it. It's all reopened now for walkers and riders.

From the archives



On the altar of the church is a huge brass cross. Less obvious is the inscription written on the base: In loving memory of: Lieut Cyril Amyatt-Burney, killed in action N.Nigeria, December 16th 1903. But who was he and why is it in Babcary church?

Fred Boothby did a bit of research and discovered that 25 year old Lt Amyatt-Burney was appointed District Superintendent of Police in Northern Nigeria. He was previously in the Imperial Yeomanry during the Boer War. In December 1903 a force under the command of Captain O'Riordan and Lt Amyatt-Burney was despatched from Deckina to reinstate the tribal king at Akina and oust the usurper. However, the force was ambushed by the natives and both O'Riordan and Amyatt-Burney were slaughtered. His remains were recovered by a punitive expedition and buried in Lokoja cemetery.

And why here? Cyril Amyatt-Burney was the son of the rector of Babcary at the time; Rev Edward Amyatt-Burney. So, whatever the rights and wrongs of this obscure bit of colonial derring do, there's some corner of a foreign field that is for ever Babcary. SH

INHERITANCE TAX

Inheritance tax is currently charged at 40% on the value of your estate over the tax free allowance of £325k. What is less well known is that if you give over 10% of that taxed part to charity not only is the charitable donation deducted from the taxed sum but the rate of inheritance tax on everything else is reduced from 40% to 36%. It is therefore possible to give substantial amounts to your favourite charities AND increase the amount passed on to your beneficiaries.

If you are drawing up your will you might like to consider giving something back to this little village by either donating to the beautiful medieval church (and churchyard if you're thinking of heading that way!) and/or leaving something to the Playing Field Committee for future generations of village children to enjoy. Simply add bequests in your will to:

The Parochial Church Council of Holy Cross Church, Babcary

and/or

Babcary Playing Field Committee, Registered Charity No.273255

NB. Get professional advice first – this is just a suggestion, NOT proper financial advice.

WEATHER REPORT

July 40.5mm mostly during the middle of the month

August 28.9mm almost all during the last week of the month.

This means for the last 6 months Babcary have only had around 20% of our annual rainfall.

This has now been the second driest 6-month period for the Wessex Region (March to August) since records began in 1871.

Reservoir levels for Wessex Water were approximately 42% capacity at the end of August.

Steve Street

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday 5 th October	Communion service and Christening	Babcary church 10.30am
Tuesday 7 th October	Playing Field Committee	Hut at 7pm
Thursday 9 th October	Mobile Library	Bus shelter 12.55 – 1.15pm
Thursday 16 th October	PCC meeting	7pm at Percy House
Monday 13 th October	Singing workshop	6.45 in the hut
Monday 13 th October	Parish Council Meeting	Hut 8pm
Saturday 1 st Nov	Bonfire night	Playing field 6pm
Every Tuesday	Bell Ringing	Church 6pm
Every Saturday	Community Shop	Hut 9.30 – 11am